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LD111348 [Editorial Report]

Inter-Arab Affairs

Egyptian President Husni Mubarak told the Abu Dhabi paper AL-ITTIHAD that he contacted U.S. and Israeli leaders in an attempt to avert Israeli retaliation for the Qiryat Shimona attack, AFP reported. The paper also revealed that Mubarak and Jordanian King Husayn recently discussed a proposal for the creation of a "joint Arab deterrent force" to which Egypt offered to commit 15,000 soldiers.

Lebanon

IDF Navy Officer Killed—An Israeli ensign was killed when an IDF patrol boat investigating a "terrorist ship" near the Al-Litani River estuary was fired upon, Jerusalem radio reported, adding that the unidentified craft was sunk. In a statement cited by the clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio, the Islamic Resistance claimed credit for the sailor's death.

Sidon Alert—Palestinian organizations in Sidon have declared a "general mobilization" following PLO intelligence that the Israelis plan "air, land, and sea attacks" against the area, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported, citing a Palestinian military official.

Israel

IDF radio reported the death of an 11-year-old boy wounded by IDF fire during the Gaza riots, adding that security has been strengthened against further disturbances in Gaza and the West Bank. According to Jerusalem radio, a Nabulus resident was killed and an IDF officer wounded in "violent disturbances," and a curfew was imposed on Balatah camp 11 December following riots in which a youth was slightly wounded by IDF gunfire.

Iran

An AL-QABAS report cited by KUNA disclosed that Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Larijani and a former U.S. official recently held a secret meeting to discuss the situation of the U.S. hostages in Lebanon. According to the report from Paris quoting "well-informed Western sources," the unnamed U.S. official, who was described as having served in the Carter administration, urged Iran to take a "humanitarian stance," and Larijani promised to deliver the message to leaders in Tehran.

Iran-iraq Conflict

Iraqi warplanes carried out raids on sugar factories near Dezful and Bakhtaran as well as other missions that inflicted "heavy losses" on the enemy, according to a communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio. IRNA accused Iraq of hitting "nonmilitary" areas in Khuzestan and Bakhtaran Provinces, causing damage and casualties. A WIH statement quoted by Tehran radio announced that military and economic targets will be attacked in retaliation and warned the Iraqi people to evacuate. "If the Iraqi regime continues its wicked deeds, the preventive operations will take on wider dimensions," the statement threatened.

Regarding previous action in the Gulf, Lloyds confirmed to INA that an Iranian tanker sailing from Khark to Larak Island was twice set ablaze by Iraqi air strikes 9 and 10 December.

Sudan

Opposition forces "overran" the garrison at Qaysan and are in "hot pursuit" of government soldiers fleeing to Damazin, according to a communique broadcast by SPLA radio. However, a statement from the General Command of the Sudanese Armed Forces carried by Omdurman radio announced that the military is in "full control" of the situation "on all fronts."

Tunisia-Libya

President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali received Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi, special envoy of Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and head of an "important" delegation, Tunis radio reported. In remarks cited by the station, the Libyan envoy praised Ben Ali's "sincere spirit" and expressed the hope that the two countries can "set up new relations," thus taking a step toward the ultimate goal of "comprehensive Arab unity."

Afghanistan

A Foreign Ministry note broadcast by Kabul radio "strongly protested" continued attacks from Pakistani territory against Afghan border posts, adding that one person was killed and another wounded when the areas of Lowyah Dakkah, Patiray, Agam, and Achin were the targets of attacks with "heavy arms and surface-to-surface rockets" 7 December. Responsibility for the "dangerous consequences" of such actions lies with the Pakistani authorities, the note warned.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Briefs Ambassadors on Gaza Strip Events

LD101904 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 10 Dec 87

[Excerpt] In Kuwait, Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, summoned the ambassadors of the permanent members of the UN Security Council and the EEC at noon today. Brother Abu 'Ammar told the ambassadors that the PLO demands quick political action to end the Zionist massacres in the occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank. Brother Abu 'Ammar fully briefed the ambassadors on the latest developments taking place in the occupied areas.

It is known that Brother Abu 'Ammar has put at the disposal of these countries detailed information about the crimes of the Zionist occupation forces that have been committed against the Palestinian masses demonstrating against the Israeli terrorist actions as well as the crimes of assassinating innocent citizens.

WAFA has learned that the ambassadors of the UN Security Council permanent members decided to keep the communication channels open with the Palestinian leadership to remain informed about the latest developments in the occupied Palestinian territories.

Today Brother Abu 'Ammar also addressed urgent messages to President Kenneth Kaunda, OAU chairman and Zambian president, and Prime Minister Robert Mugabe, Nonaligned Movement chairman and Zimbabwean prime minister, about the bloody developments in the Gaza Strip and West Bank. Brother Abu 'Ammar asked the two leaders to act in support of the Palestinian people who are facing Zionist state terrorism.

Brother Abu 'Ammar also issued urgent instructions to Brother Zuhdi al-Tarzi, PLO permanent UN representative, to submit an urgent memorandum to the UN Security Council, UN secretary general, and the current chairman of the United Nations General Assembly about the crimes committed by the Zionist occupation forces in the occupied homeland. WAFA has learned that the Palestinian memorandum includes a complete report about the occupation forces' use of helicopters, bombs, and bullets against unarmed Palestinian citizens.

The report also includes accurate information about the Zionist tanks storming the Al-Shifa' hospital in Gaza and Al-Aqqad in Khan Yunis, as well as current statistics on the losses among civilians as a result of the Zionist forces fire. Palestinian sources said that the civilian losses, as of noon today, were 14 martyrs and 100 injured. [passage omitted]

Qaddumi, PFLP Official Comment on Syria Ties

PM101429 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 9 Dec 87 p 2

[Text] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—PLO Political Department head Faruq Qaddumi has affirmed that reopening the PLO office in Cairo, raising the Palestinian flag, and restoring relations with Egypt to their normal course will not affect current contacts with Damascus.

During a telephone call with him in New York—where he had participated in the UN General Assembly's proceedings and delivered a speech on the international day of solidarity with the Palestinian people—Qaddumi told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Numerous resolutions were adopted at the extraordinary summit in Amman, and it is natural that we should have relations with Egypt. Besides, the Syrian Government did not voice any reservations about the resolution pertaining to the right of each Arab state to do what it deems appropriate with regard to restoring relations with Egypt. Libya was the only country that voiced reservations about the resolution.

Faruq Qaddumi described his meetings with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' on the sidelines of the Amman summit as being "dominated by understanding and love despite the fact that they did not assume any procedural [ijra'i] dimension. We hope that relations with the brothers in Syria will return to normal; contacts between Minister Faruq al-Shar' and me are continuing."

The head of the PLO Political Department said "the interest in the Palestinian problem did not decrease during the summit, which was held primarily to discuss the Gulf war. Indeed, both the situation in the Gulf and the Palestinian question were discussed consciously and scientifically in an up-to-date manner. The Arab leaders have realized that common Arab action is a principle and that the previous period fragmented the Arab potential and drove it into a dilemma."

Commenting on the Greek foreign minister's visit to Israel and the possibility of diplomatic relations being established between the two parties, Qaddumi said: "We are linked to Greece by old and historic friendship, which we eagerly preserve. We truly hope that they will not establish such a relationship. However, it is known that Greece is being subjected to pressures from a number of EEC states, and even from the United States itself, to establish diplomatic relations."

He added: "I made a successful visit to Athens and I do not believe that matters will develop into diplomatic relations in the near future; these meetings can be called contacts."

Abu al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi] noted that the Palestinian problem and the situation in the Gulf will be among the issues to be discussed between the Soviet and U.S. leaders at their summit in Washington this week, but of course, after the fundamental issues concerning the two countries have been discussed.

Abu al-Lutf said the Soviet leaders have informed the PLO that they will discuss the Palestinian problem with the U.S. President, as well as ways of settling it. With regard to the issue of the emigration of Soviet Jews and whether it was discussed, the head of the PLO Political Department asserted: "We discuss all issues with the Soviet comrades at closed meetings. They stressed to us their firm stand toward the Palestinian problem and the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. The issue of the Jews falls within their internal affairs. It will not be discussed with the U.S. President, since they consider it their business and do not believe that it is in the interest of other parties to discuss it with them."

Faruq Qaddumi announced that he will visit the Soviet Union in the near future with Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] to meet with Soviet officials to discuss the latest developments in the Palestinian problem.

Meanwhile, Abu 'Ali Mustafa, PFLP assistant general secretary and PLO Executive Committee member, said that PFLP General Secretary Dr George Habash will meet with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad within the next few days. Abu 'Ali Mustafa told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that there are positive signs that a Syrian-Palestinian meeting will be convened as soon as possible.

The PFLP assistant general secretary noted that the most notable positive sign at this level has been the suspension of media campaigns and the release of some detainees.

Abu 'Ali Mustafa added that the atmosphere is very suitable for restoring both cooperation and coordination among Syria, the PLO, and nationalist parties in Lebanon, since reports from the north of the occupied territories refer to major military deployments in preparation for an Israeli attack. He described the efforts being exerted by fraternal and friendly states to restore cohesion between Syria and the PLO as having surmounted the difficult obstacles. He noted that the possibility that Damascus will announce its agreement to receive a leading Palestinian delegation to discuss relations between the two parties and ways of handling the next stage is not remote.

Israeli Patrol Attacked in Jabalyah Camp

JN101949 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 10 Dec 87

[Communique issued by a military spokesman for the Palestinian Revolution Forces General Command; date and place not given]

[Text] While an enemy motorized patrol was engaged in quelling our people's uprising in the Jabalyah camp at 0930 on 9 Decmber 1987, our heroes belonging to the martyr Nabilah group operating inside the occupied homeland attacked it with incendiary bombs and hand grenades. Our revolutionaries managed to destroy the military vehicle and wound two of the patrol elements. Despite the maximum status of alert observed by the Zionist forces and the encirclement and storming operations carried out by these forces, our heroes managed to return safely to base.

OPEC Affairs

Further Details on Opening Session in Vienna

AU091727 Paris AFP in English 1713 GMT 9 Dec 87

[Text] Vienna, Dec 9 (AFP)—The Gulf war dominated the year-end conference of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), which opened here Wednesday with Iran implicitly accusing its Arab neighbours of seeking to isolate it.

An opening statement by OPEC President Rilwanu Lukman of Nigeria, concentrated on renewed volatility of oil markets and reflected growing concern among non-Gulf members over worsening Arab-Iranian strains.

Western analysts and some senior OPEC officials agreed that crude prices, which have recovered over the past year after a dramatic collapse to less than 10 dollars a barrel in 1986, could tumble again if OPEC fails to produce a credible pricing and production agreement for 1988.

Mr Lukman said OPEC's 1986 decision to restore a fixed pricing system at an average of 18 dollars a barrel and an equally "realistic" production ceiling initially restored "our credibility," and stabilized the market after the price collapse.

But he acknowledged that "confidence" had been eroded from the middle of this year because of "overproduction by some of our member countries."

He was careful not to name the over-producers although Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Iraq, are considered the biggest "sinners."

He also noted that renewed over-supply, entailing "considerable pressure upon prices", stemmed in part from "uncertainty and anxiety among both consumers and producers" over the latest Gulf developments.

"Exceptional" circumstances explain the overstepping of quotas set under the December agreement, he said, adding that those who acted outside it "will be the first to appreciate that such actions could ultimately backfire on all of us," he said.

The Nigerian minister said it was time for OPEC to close ranks and reach agreement on next year's crude oil price and production levels that would reinforce market stability.

What was needed was a "realistic" agreement finely tuned to "market requirements" which should aim at "balancing world supply and demand and should include all our members," he stressed.

Mr Lukman's statement amounted to a plea for an arrangement that would return Iraq to the OPEC fold, and make sure OPEC's price bolstering efforts are no longer impaired by the political fall-out from the Iran-Iraq war.

Iraq, financially stretched by its war effort, refused to join the December 1986 agreement, and is now producing nearly one million barrels a day (mbd) above its "deemed" quota of 1.54 mbd.

Iran on Wednesday again rejected Baghdad's demand for a quota matching the current Iranian limit of 2.369 mbd. But Iraq's Arab allies voiced firm support for it.

Iranian oil minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh charged that Saudi Arabia and its Arab neighbours had already "made the decisions" they wanted from the OPEC meeting at the Amman Arab summit last month. He warned that Iran would itself boycott any agreement here that did not take its position into account.

European oil industry executives said the market would react negatively to any OPEC agreement which was not endorsed by all 13 member countries.

They also said OPEC countries, which have overshot their notional 16.6 mbd production ceiling by a good margin since mid-1987, would have to limit output to a maximum of 17.6 to 17.8 mbd next year, and stick to national quotas.

The problem facing OPEC ministers was how Iraq's demand for a bigger share in OPEC output could be accomodated inside such a limit.

The experts dismissed Iran's call for an increase in OPEC's reference price to at least 20 dollars a barrel as unrealistic. The call was made in an effort to make up for the dollar's decline.

Oil trades are priced in dollars, but the ministers may discuss proposals to change to a "basket" of currencies, like the Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) of the International Monetary Fund.

Aqazadeh Disputes Quotas, Price

LD101047 Kuwait KUNA in English 0917 GMT 10 Dec 87

[Text] Vienna, Dec 10 (KUNA)—OPEC Oil ministers start a second day of laborious talks to try and hammer out an agreement on oil prices and production levels for the new year.

The 13 oil ministers of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries said little after two rounds of talks Wednesday, incuding an unusually long evening session at OPEC headquarters.

"We have not agreed on anything yet. Detailed debate had not begun. The meaningful discussions have yet to begin," Saudi Oil Minister Hisham al-Nasir told reporters as he left Wednesday's evening talks.

Other ministers said they expected a full day of intense discussions Thursday and that the conference was likely to drag into the weekend.

Iran raised the stakes yesterday when its oil minister, Gholam Reza Aqazadeh threatened to flood the market with oil if OPEC failed to increase prices to 20 dollars from the current 18, or allotted higher production levels for its Gulf war enemy Iraq.

Iraqi Oil Minister 'Abd al-Rahim al-Jalabi told the meeting his country would not accept a quota less than Tehran's 2.4 million barrels per day (b/d), by far up from its current 1.6 million (b/d) share.

According to sources close to the closed-door meeting, the Iranian oil minister retorted that "for every barrel Iraq produces above its quota, we will produce two."

He had said Iran would refuse to sign an accord that gave Iraq quota parity. "If our position is not appreciated we will not be a signatory (to any agreement)," he told reporters. He suggested that this could mean Iran would pump four million (b/d), a move that could trigger a free-fall in oil prices similar to one in 1986 that sent them down to nine dollars a barrel from 30 dollars.

Another bone of contention is Iranian insistence on boosting OPEC's reference point by two dollars to 20 dollars a barrel to compensate for the fall in the dollar's value on international exchange markets and global inflation.

But a majority of OPEC members believes any rise is impossible in the current oil market as excess supply has kept spot prices to eight-month lows.

Saudi Arabian oil minister denied market rumours that a compromise fixing next year's oil price at 19 dollars a barrel was under consideration.

"Almost everybody believes at this time that there is no room for a price adjustment," the Iraqi oil minister said.

Nigerian oil minister, Rilwanu Lukman, who was re-elected president of OPEC on Wednesday, said OPEC must avoid a repeat of the 1986 market turbulence.

"The traumas of 1986 are behind us, yet many of the underlying weaknesses in the market remain." Lukman said in the opening address to the conference.

"Other economic problems are queuing up. The most notable of which are the repurcussions of the stock market collapse and the continuing decline in the value of the dollar," he went on.

Yesterday delegates had reviewed a report on demand for OPEC crude in 1988 and another by the organization's market monitoring committee warning of a further decline in oil prices unless a new accord on pricing and production ceiling was reached.

A lower dollar undermines the OPEC countries purchasing power as their oil sales are denominated in the American unit, and much of their imports are purchased in the higher valued European and Japanese currencies.

Majority Agree on Crude Price

AU101322 Paris AFP in English 1320 GMT 10 Dec 87

[Text] Vienna, Dec 10 (AFP)—Twelve of the 13 OPEC member-countries Thursday agreed to freeze the organization's official reference price for crude oil at 18 dollars a barrel in 1988, oil ministers meeting here said.

Kuwaiti Oil Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah Al Sabah said everybody agrees to maintain the reference price at 18 dollars a barrel "with the possible exception of one member state."

Indonesian Energy Minister Dr. Subroto said there was a majority for 18 dollars. He said Iran's position on the reference price was well-known in a hint that Iran was the disagreeing country.

Tehran has demanded that the reference price be increased by two dollars to offset the depreciation of the dollar in the past year.

The statement came as the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries meeting here since Wednesday, decided to suspend thier talks until Friday.

Closed Session Adjourned

LD101233 Vienna OPECNA in English 1218 GMT 10 Dec 87

[Text] Vienna, 10 Dec. 87 (OPECNA)—OPEC ministers have adjourned the 82nd meeting of their conference until Friday morning. Meanwhile, private consultations between the delegations will continue.

This morning's session which lasted for about two hours and a half was devoted to an examination of 'several aspects' of oil prices, a conference source told OPECNA.

He added that the ministers were expected to discuss related aspects of production Friday.

The conference which began Wednesday is the second this year, the last one having been held in June, also in the Austrian capital.

Chad

FANT Clashes With 'Mercenaries' at Border

AB101920 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 10 Dec 87

[Communique No 99 issued by the FANT High Command in Ndjamena on 10 December]

[Text] In spite of the cease-fire proclaimed by each side, and in spite of the lessons learned from the recent fighting, Al-Qadhdhafi's Islamic Legion has returned to attack. Thus, on Wednesday, 9 December 1987, at 1300 local time [1200 GMT], a column of mercenaries paid by (?Al-Qadhdhafi) trying to penetrate Chadian territory from Sudan was intercepted and destroyed by the valiant and courageous FANT at the Chad-Sudan border in the (?Goz Dango) region. Here is the outcome of that fighting: On the enemy side, 18 died, several wounded soldiers were taken away, and 1 prisoner of war was taken; on the FANT side there were no casualties.

We are repeating for the umpteenth time that the Sudanese Government should assume all its responsibilities in the face of the serious danger it is running by allowing Al-Qadhdhafi's mercenary troops to use its territory to attack the martyred people of Chad.

Egypt

Mubarak Urges Israeli Restraint After Attack

NC102040 Paris AFP in English 2020 GMT 10 Dec 87

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Dec 10 (AFP)—Egyptian President Husni Mubarak has said he has approached the United States and Israel in a bid to avert Israeli military retaliation for last month's hang-glider attack on an Army camp in northern Israel.

Mr. Mubarak, in an interview appearing here Thursday in the Abu Dhabi daily AL-ITTIHAD, said he had contacted both U.S. and Israeli leaders "to try to prevent an Israeli retaliation that could lead to severe casualties."

The paper, citing a "reliable" Egyptian source, also reported that Egypt and Jordan had been discussing the formation of a joint Arab deterrent force.

Arab leaders have expressed concern that Israel might mount a major strike on positions in either Lebanon or Syria in response to the commando raid November 25 in which a lone gunmen flew a hang-glider across the Lebanese border into Israel and attacked an Army camp.

Six soldiers were killed and seven wounded before the gunman was himself shot dead in an attack that stunned Israel and led to sanctions against several officers.

The operation was claimed by the Damascus-based Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command and Israel has implicated Syria in the raid.

In Sidon, southern Lebanon Palestinian groups were on full alert in preparation for an expected attack, Palestinian officials said, as Israeli warplanes maintained a state of near panic among the population by staging dummy passes over the region.

Elsewhere, AL-ITTIHAD, quoting a "reliable" Egyptian source, said Egypt and Jordan were considering the establishment of a joint Arab deterrent force.

The paper said Mr. Mubarak and King Husayn of Jordan discussed the proposal at their meeting in Cairo last week, quoting its source as saying Egypt had offered to supply 15,000 troops.

"A number" of Arab states were also involved in discussions on the force, the paper reported, but did not name them nor did it disclose where the troops would be based nor when they would be mobilized.

Mubarak Receives Message From President Reagan

NC101708 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 10 Dec 87

[Excerpt] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received a message from U.S. President Reagan today. In his message, the American President agreed with President Mubarak that peace in the various parts of the world is indivisible, and that we must act to settle urgent regional problems side by side with the ongoing negotiations between the two superpowers on the nuclear dispute and attempts to curb the arms race.

President Reagan highlighted his country's determination to continue working, in collaboration with friendly countries, to end the Gulf war and implement UN Security Council Resolution 598.

The U.S. President also expressed his government's interest in the Middle East peace process and Egypt's major role in it. He agreed that an international peace conference should be held after proper preparation, which would ensure its success. [passage omitted]

Impact of U.S.-Soviet Summit on Arabs Noted

NC110910 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2355 GMT 10 Dec 87

[Text] Cairo, 10 Dec (MENA)—The newspaper AL-AHRAM has stressed that the Arab nation must show the highest degree of vigilance and readiness to keep pace with developments following the U.S.-Soviet summit.

In an editorial in tomorrow's edition, the paper says: It is quite probable that Reagan and Gorbachev, the U.S. and Soviet leaders, dealt with regional issues in a harmonious atmosphere. It may be inevitable that the results of this

will take the form of mutual concessions. In their accord, the two parties may reach the point of agreeing to freeze and play down the problems without having resolved them.

The paper appeals to the Arab nation to conduct an urgent, objective evaluation of the summit's results. It must also devise a new strategy for its efforts at various levels to deal with the numerous issues of concern to it. The paper notes that the Arab nation undoubtedly has room for maneuver and ways to exert pressure and influence that would enable it to contain any negative results produced by the climate of potential reconciliation between the two superpowers. Furthermore, the paper adds, the Arab nation can exploit developments in the post-summit phase in its own interest if it holds on to all its power. This is not impossible, as long as the Arab nation has freedom of will and opinion, the paper concludes.

Sidqi, PLO Delegation Discuss Mideast Peace

NC102020 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1945 GMT 10 Dec 87

[Excerpts] Cairo, 10 Dec (MENA)—This evening, Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi received the Palestinian delegation led by PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu Mazin, which is currently visiting Cairo. [passage omitted]

The participants in the meeting discussed the importance of coordinating Arab stands to give an impetus to the Middle East peace process within the context of an international peace conference. The Palestinian delegation stressed the significance of Egypt's current role in the regional peace process. Both sides agreed on the importance of Jordanian-Palestinian coordination in the forthcoming stage.

Opposition Leader on Support for Palestinians

PM110859 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 8 Dec 87 p 4

[Report by Ramadan 'Urabi and 'Abd al-Fattah Fayid on rally in Cairo "in solidarity with the Palestinian people," marking the anniversary of the partition of Palestine; date not given]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The rally began with a speech by fighter Ibrahim Shukri, Egyptian opposition [and Socialist Labor Party] leader. His words flowed enthusiastically from a heart that both loves and cares about his nation and is eager to extricate it from its dilemma. He said: How can we accept such a humiliating situation in our country? How can our enemy's flag fly over Cairo while we lower our brothers' flag? This contrary state of affairs cannot continue under any circumstances. That is why we have resisted all forms of normalization. The Egyptian people have shown their greatness in rejecting every form of welcome for westernization as part of their fight against the enemy and those who encourage him.

The Egyptian people reject normalization, and I tell the Arab nation that, despite Camp David, Israel has failed to divert Egypt into its market. We thank those Egyptian organizations, officials, and unions that have burned the Israeli flag and raised the Palestinian banner. The Palestinian cause will remain alive until the Palestinian flag is hoisted above a Palestinian embassy in Cairo and Jerusalem is restored, Arab and Islamic.

Shukri added: I went to Syria and Algeria for the PNC session at a time when the Arab states and other countries thought that Egypt had abandoned the Arabs. I visited the majority of Arab states during this particularly critical period. I did so in light of our pan-Arab duty toward our nation and our realization that there is no road but that of unity and no target but the common one, the Zionist enemy. We know what the enemy did to our children in Sabra and Shatila, and we remember the massacres he committed during his brutal attack on the Palestinian camps in Lebanon. At the same time, we recall the heroic role played by the youth of the Palestinian resistance when they prevented the Israelis, despite their force and equipment, from entering Beirut in 1982.

Shukri said that some things must be reconsidered. This includes the special treatment Palestinians now receive, as they have been asked to pay large sums of money for schools and universities. Their right to buy property has also been abolished—something we openly opposed in the People's Assembly. They must have the right to a dignified life on Egyptian soil. Great Egypt, with its great heart, must accommodate every Arab.

Shukri concluded his address by noting: I am optimistic about our next steps, and we must learn from the past. There must be no estrangement. I promise you that we will proceed together on one road against the enemy and cooperate with men of honor in both Egypt and the Arab world. [passage omitted]

North Yemeni Minister Arrives on Private Visit

NC102034 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2010 GMT 10 Dec 87

[Excerpt] Cairo, 10 Dec (MENA)—Muhsin Muhammad al-'Ulufi, YAR minister of social affairs and labor, arrived in Cairo this evening for a 2-day private visit to Egypt on his way home from Tunis.

Upon arrival, the Yemeni minister said he had attended the eighth session of the Council of Arab Social Affairs Ministers, which was held in Tunis from 8 to 10 December. [passage omitted]

Libya

GDR Light Industry Minister Arrives 9 Dec

LD091927 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1840 GMT 9 Dec 87

[Text] Tripoli, 9 Dec (JANA)—Buschmann, GDR minister of light industry and chairman of the German side of the Libyan Arab-German Joint Committee, and his

accompanying delegation arrived in Tripoli this evening on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

Buschmann made a statement to a JANA correspondent in which he stressed that the existing relations between the Great Jamahiriyah and the GDR are good and strong.

Aspects of scientific and technical cooperation will be discussed at the eighth session of the Libyan Arab-German Joint Committee.

Cooperation Talks Begin

LD101733 Tripoli JANA in English 1422 GMT 10 Dec 87

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Kanun [December] 10, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—In Tripoli today, the 8th session of the Joint Libyan Arab-Democratic Germany Committee has started holding its meetings to discuss ways of promoting the bilateral cooperation in various fields between the two friendly countries.

Present at the opening session was Mr. Ahmad Ibrahim, secretary of the General People's Committee for Education and Scientific Research and Mr. Buschmann, the minister of light industries of German Democratic Republic, apart from a number of technicians and experts from the two friendly countries.

Mr. Ibrahim, in his speech there, has welcomed Mr. Buschmann and his accompanying delegation pointing out that this meeting of the above committee comes to promote the ties of friendship and close cooperation between the two friendly countries.

Meanwhile, Mr. Buschmann, in his speech there, has stressed that his country is keen on promoting its cooperation relations so as to make this session successful.

He asserts that the bilateral relations between Great al-Jamahiriyah and his country witness a great development in the economic, scientific and technical spheres.

Sudan

Further on Fighting in Kurmuk Border Region

'Outlaws' Suffer 'Major' Losses

EA101945 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 2130 GMT 9 Dec 87

[Text] The official spokesman for the Armed Forces has declared that the outlaws suffered major losses after an intensified aerial bombardment. The Sudanese Air Force carried out this operation since yesterday against groups of outlaws in the Kurmuk region. This was part of the air arm's combat duties in the Kurmuk operations.

The official spokesman added that the aerial bombardment resulted in direct hits against the (?intended) targets. The Air Force destroyed a number of defensive positions of the outlaws in the area.

Reports coming from the area that was bombarded indicate that after the outlaws suffered their heavy losses, a number of Ethiopian helicopters were observed taking wounded outlaws away. This took place as groups of outlaws began to carry away [words indistinct] the killed and wounded, and other groups fled on foot from the areas being bombed.

A highly placed military source in the General Command told the SUDAN NEWS AGENCY that our Armed Forces had carried out various types of operations in the area. [passage indistinct]

General Command Statement

EA101931 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 10 Dec 87

[Excerpts] The Armed Forces General Command has issued the following statement:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted]

In continuing our previous statements, we would like to announce to our honorable countrymen that their forces in [words indistinct] as of operations at Kurmuk have continued their combat operations, in accordance with the established strategy. They have succeeded in carrying out all their duties over the past 2 days.

In executing their missions, the command in the Ad Damazin region considered it appropriate to rally our forces in the border areas. This will enable them to carry out their specific duties and to maneuver freely in accordance with the strategy for the theater of operations. This will be done in an effort to thwart the plans of the enemies, who aim to distract our forces from their main targets and drag them into minor skirmishes.

As for the southern region, your Armed Forces are continuing their duties of opening roads and protecting the citizens from the violence of the outlaws. They destroyed (Dain) camp and (Klau) camp in Bahr al-Ghazal the day before yesterday.

We would like to reassure our countrymen that the Armed Forces retain full control of the situation on all fronts. We will also keep you informed of the situation as it develops.

If God renders you victorious, then there will be no one who triumphs over you.

SPLA Claims Qaysan Overrun

EA101617 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 10 Dec 87

[Text] In a military communique issued yesterday, the SPLA Military High Command announced that the SPLA forces of the Axis 2 under the direct operational command of Commander Salva Kiir Mayar Dit, permanent member of SPLM-SPLA Political-Military High Command and deputy chief of staff for operations and security, yesterday overran the enemy garrison of Qaysan at 0900 Sudan local time, with very heavy casualties inflicted on the enemy in both men and material. Qaysan is to the north of Kurmuk near to Ad Damazin, the capital of the Blue Nile Province.

Our correspondent says that the SPLA forces are in hot pursuit of the fleeing soldiers of Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi to Ad Damazin.

Commenting on the capture of Qaysan, the official SPLM-SPLA spokesman said that the capture of Qaysan is in line with the warning announced over Radio SPLA immediately after the fall of Kurmuk regarding the garrison towns of Qaysan, Ad Damazin, Ar Renk, and Okosti, that the SPLA would close in on them, and the civilians along the route to those towns were advised to keep away from crossfire and to assist the SPLA.

The commander in chief, John Garang de Mabior, on the receipt of the news of the capture of Qaysan, has passed thousands of revolutionary congratulations to Commander Salva Kiir Mayar Dit, all officers, NCO's, and men of the 2d Axis and ordered them to push on to Ad Damazin and beyond.

Al-Mirghani Says Kurmuk 'Problem' Settled Soon

PM101335 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 9 Dec 87 pp 1, 2

[Hasin al-Bunyan report on statements by Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani, leader of the Democratic Unionist Party; date and place not given]

[Excerpts] Riyadh, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Bureau—Democratic Unionist Party leader Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani has declared that the Sudanese Army is now working hard to liberate the town of Kurmuk, and that the problem will be settled within the next few days. He stated that the Egyptian mediation between Sudan and Ethiopia could possibly result in another meeting in Cairo between the leaders of the two countries. Egypt would also attend these talks.

In reply to a question by AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT on whether there were peace talks with the rebel movements, in view of the foreign interference and the occupation of Kurmuk, Al-Mirghani answered: Sudan is still seeking peace, and dialogue has not been interrupted. However, Sudan will not forfeit a single inch of its national soil. The present situation prompts us to recover our territory and to restore our national sovereignty over Kurmuk. After that, we can continue our efforts for peace with the rebel movement. We are ready to meet with them at any time or place they decide.

In discussing the recent offensive against Kurmuk, Al-Mirghani noted: Sudan was subjected to a perfidious attack. As a result of this action, that town was completely destroyed by rockets and long-range artillery. The Sudanese Army was forced to evacuate its small force from the town, but the Army is now attempting to liberate it. The problem will be settled within the next few days, although we believe further attacks will be repeated against other positions. This is because this aggression is clearly backed by Ethiopia. In recent years, Ethiopia, with the assistance of the Soviet Union, has built a major military force to launch such attacks. Its military is considered to be the largest in east and central Africa. [passage omitted]

Al-Mirghani then discussed the Gulf war, Iran's intransigence, its rejection of Security Council Resolution 598, and the possibility of imposing sanctions against the Iranian regime. He stated: We support the Amman summit resolutions, as well as Security Council Resolution 598. We hope that when the Amman summit resolutions are implemented, they will prove capable of ending the Iranian aggression against fraternal Iraq, whose territories have been occupied by aggressive forces.

In reply to a question from AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT on the results of his meeting with King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, Al-Mirghani answered: I told the custodian of the two holy mosques about the new situation in Sudan, as well as the nature of current issues there.

He stated: We exchanged views on many issues of concern to the two countries, in order to strengthen the friendly relations we now maintain. We did this to discuss matters on regional developments, the challenges facing our Arab and Islamic nation, and also to unite ranks to confront such challenges. [passage omitted]

Notice on Foreigners' Movements Soon Required

EA102140 Omduraman Domestic Service in Arabic 2130 GMT 9 Dec 87

[Text] The commissioner of the national capital has issued a statement correcting reports in some newspapers that quoted his excellency on the establishment of a refugee camp in the Ad Duwaym area.

The statement also points out that the commission has decided to issue a local ordinance this year to control foreigners. This will compel owners of real estate and employers to notify the relevant officials of the names of foreigners, should the latter decide to leave their jobs or accomodations. It additionally notes the importance of the decision to enumerate newcomers and foreigners who do not have residence permits—the national capital is teeming with them—and record their presence.

As for the report on the establishment of a refuge camp, the statement specified that this does not refer to a permanent camp, but rather to the construction of quarters pending a decision on the refugees.

The statement then explained that decisions on refugee camps are considered to come under the jurisdiction of the office of the commissioner of refugees. The building of camps is subject to social, security, and economic factors, in which the geographical location of the camp and the creation of productive activities for refugees are considered.

The statement added that the commission for the national capital has no connection with the establishment of such camps.

Tunisia

Government Welcomes 'Historic' INF Treaty

LD101503 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic
1300 GMT 10 Dec 87

[Text] The international event still dominating the political arena is the Reagan-Gorbachev summit in Washington. Before giving you details of the developments of this meeting, we would first like to point out that the Tunisian Government has expressed its satisfaction with this historical event and has congratulated the leaders of the two countries on their political courage and the spirit of responsibility and firm determination they have shown throughout 7 years of negotiations on this issue. The Tunisian Government has pointed out that this treaty, which for the first time in the history of mankind deals with a real reduction of nuclear arms, will have positive repercussions on peace and security in the world, particularly in the Mediterranean area.

The Tunisian Government has also expressed the hope that this treaty, which constitutes a first step, will be coupled with other agreements on nuclear disarmament. It also hopes that the superpowers will work to eliminate nuclear arms in the world and to reach total disarmament.

The Tunisian Government considers this treaty, which establishes an atmosphere of detente and arouses mankind's hope to rid the world of the dangers of war, has great importance for the developing countries. These countries hope that the treaty is the beginning of an era in which the world devotes its efforts to development and cooperation, in which resources are mobilized for combating hunger, disease, division, and for the sake of providing the basics for a better future for all.

'Important' Libyan Delegation Arrives 10 Dec

LD101134 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic
1100 GMT 10 Dec 87

[Text] Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi arrived in Tunis this morning at the head of an important Libyan delegation, as a special envoy from Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to his excellency President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.

Meets With President

LD101413 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic
1300 GMT 10 Dec 87

[Text] His Excellency President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali met this morning in the Palace of the Republic in Carthage with Major Al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi, personal envoy of Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, in the presence of Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche.

Major Al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi said he had the honor of seeing president Zine El Abidine Ben Ali soon after his arrival in Tunis. He said: This is a gesture we appreciate and understand. It reflects the feelings of brotherhood of his excellency the president to his brother, the leader of the Libyan revolution, Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. He said the meeting was an occasion for him to convey to the head of state a message of support from Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

The Libyan envoy said the meeting embodied the realistic and practical spirit that characterizes the future of relations between the two peoples, whether at the bilateral or working levels for promoting the Arab Maghreb. Maj Al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi expressed his pleasure at visiting Tunisia, with its new, high morality, which reinforces its civilizing and historical role.

He said: We have congratulated the Tunisian people and its leadership on this historical occasion, which we all support. We have great hopes that the dawn of 7 November will illuminate the road of the fraternal Tunisian people toward a free and dignified life that will strengthen its role in the Arab unionist action in our great Maghreb. Our objective now is to set up new relations, full of confidence and optimism and based on full respect for the desires of the peoples of the region. On the other hand, and based on the trends of the 1 September Revolution, we are very eager to eliminate all the causes likely to obstruct unionist

action within the Arab Maghreb, as a first step on the road to comprehensive Arab unity. We affirm to our brothers in Tunisia what was said by the brother leader of the revolution in his speech at the opening session of the General People's Congress on 23 November: We extend our hands to our brothers in Tunisia, who are living their new era, which we consider a gain for all the Arab Maghreb. We must fully support them in building the future of the Maghreb.

He concluded: We have found in his excellency the president a sincere spirit concerning relations between the two countries, relations which will change soon, with God's help.

Kuwait

'Secret' U.S.-Iran Meeting on Hostages Noted

LD111002 Kuwait KUNA in English 0800 GMT 11 Dec 87

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 11 (KUNA)—A press report said here Friday that a secret meeting was held recently between Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Larijani and a former American official.

AL-QABAS newspaper, in a report from Paris quoting well informed Western sources, said that the meeting dealt with the problem of American hostages in Lebanon.

While not naming the American official, the paper noted that he held a high ranking position in the Carter administration and played an important role in American-Iranian negotiations over the seizure of the American Embassy in Tehran in 79.

The sources told the paper that the American official was not making his efforts on behalf of the Reagan administration, but rather on behalf of the families of the hostages.

However, the official met with several State Department officials after his meeting with Larijani with whom he maintained a strong (?relationship) and several others close to senior officials in Iran.

According to the report, the Carter administration official urged Larijani to take a humanitarian stance on the issue [word indistinct] to requests by the hostages' families to the American Administration.

Eight American citizens (?are still) in detention in Lebanon, some of whom have been kidnapped for over two years.

In addition, there are several other hostages in Lebanon including Terry Waite, the British Anglican envoy who was kidnapped in January of this year.

The sources said the former official cautioned Larijani that deteriorating American-Iranian relations will not be to the benefit of Iran, stressing that Iranian assistance to release American hostages in Lebanon would lead to an improvement in the relations with Washington.

The U.S. is convinced now more than ever that Iran has special ties with the kidnappers in Lebanon, especially after the release of two French hostages in exchange for the expulsion of 20 Iranian dissidents from France.

Larijani, the report said, listened carefully to the former official and promised him that the message will be delivered to the highest level of the Iranian Government.

But, at the same time, Larijani launched a vigorous attack on the Reagan administration, accusing it of masterminding an international effort to isolate Iran, the report concluded.

Further on 'Arafat Meeting With Prime Minister

JN101836 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 10 Dec 87

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, met with Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister, and Shaykh al-Sabah al-Ahmad, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, at his place of residence in Kuwait yesterday afternoon .

The talks concerned developments with regard to the Palestinian question and the Palestinian situation in the Lebanese camps, in light of the large-scale military concentrations being massed in preparation for a new military adventure in Lebanon. The two sides also discussed developments in the Iraq-Iran war, methods of ending this conflict, and ways to rally all capabilities to serve the Palestinian question.

The meeting was attended by Brother Abu al-Adib [Salim al-Za'nun], member of the Central Committee of the Fatah Movement, and Brother 'Awni Battash, representative of the Fatah movement in Kuwait.

PDRY

Al-Bid Greets Gorbachev on INF Treaty

EA102142 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 10 Dec 87

[Text] Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, has sent a message to Comrade Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, on the signing of the treaty eliminating Soviet and U.S. medium- and intermediate-range nuclear missiles. Here is the text of the message:

We followed with great interest all the practical steps and various initiatives you took to create a system of international peace and security in all parts of the world. This stems from the sincere desire of your party and people to create a nuclear-free world, and from your comprehension of the destructive consequences of nuclear war for mankind. You made these efforts for the sake of consolidating stability and establishing international peace and security.

On the occasion of the signing of the treaty eliminating Soviet and U.S. medium- and intermediate-range nuclear missiles, it gives me pleasure to commend the great success achieved in averting the catastrophe of a destructive nuclear war. I do this on behalf of the YSP Central Committee and the people and government of the PDRY. We regard this as the first step toward a

world free of nuclear weapons, as well as a great step toward the future desired by all peoples of the world. In signing this treaty, you have achieved a success for progressive mankind and for all forces opposed to war and nuclear weapons. These forces are calling for the protection and consolidation of peace in the world.

Once again we congratulate you, dear Comrade Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev. We wish you further successes in completely eliminating nuclear arms and in creating a world over which doves of peace hover, a world free from various nuclear weapons and other destructive armaments.

United Arab Emirates

President on Arab Ties, Gulf War, Lebanon

PM101615 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 11 Dec 87 pp 18-23

[Interview with President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan by Milhim Karam "on the 16th anniversary of the UAE" in Abu Dhabi]

[Text] AL-HAWADITH: Your highness, the UAE is celebrating the 16th anniversary of the experiment that is being consolidated daily and in which the faith of the people is growing steadily. What are the sweet and bitter aspects of this experiment?

Shaykh Zayid: I do not believe there is any bitterness toward the state. What we have today and have had since the creation of the union is great understanding, happiness, and solidarity. This is coupled with the joy felt by the people and their children born under the union. They know how conditions were prior to the union. The children learn this from their fathers, grandfathers, uncles, and mothers. They listen and understand. This is the only stable framework under which the people of the UAE found growth and happiness after former needs and fertility after droughts. This is what makes the people of the union so "supportive and attached" to it. You are now in the UAE. Look around and see for yourself, without asking anyone what they think. If you want to know what has been happening in Abu Dhabi, Al-'Ayn, the villages or towns attached to Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Sharjah, 'Ajman, Ra's al-Khaymah, or Umm al-Qaywayn, go and see for yourself. The whole country is open to you. Go wherever you like. See things for yourself and write about what is good or bad, and about what is available or lacking.

AL-HAWADITH: I will only write the truth. The truth gives you much credit as one who is certain of what he has achieved and as one who has a clear conscience.

Shaykh Zayid: If you find anything lacking here, this would mark the limit of our capabilities. When we needed funds we borrowed and sought to keep our efforts continuing. When we wanted to give aid and support and did not have the money to do this, we borrowed funds and then provided aid and assistance. When we grew rich and no longer were needy, we spent during the day in order to have light at night. We also spent money to enable this homeland to catch up with the living standards of fraternal and neighboring countries. Anyone who devotes himself to serving the interests of his brothers and his people cannot be a loser. He is certainly the greatest winner, for his memory will be immortalized for the coming generations, who will know everything. One's record, whether good or bad, cannot be concealed. Even if we wanted to obscure it, it would eventually surface.

AL-HAWADITH: In official work, it is noticeable that special efforts, under the personal supervision of Your Highness, are dedicated to youth. What is the extent of the state's commitment to the welfare of the new generation, which reflects the bright future of the Emirates?

Shaykh Zayid: There is no limit to this. There is no limit to our ambition and commitment to the future of our children and our young people. We have faith in this generation and in the youth who will do their duty and who, we hope, will do more for their homeland than we have done. That is why we must work hard, strive, and sacrifice a great deal for their sake and for their children and education.

AL-HAWADITH: After this triumph, do you believe that the successful experiment of the UAE can be applied to other Arab states?

Shaykh Zayid: Yes, it is both suitable and useful for this, for it would eliminate the obstacles and blemishes that could conceivably occur.

AL-HAWADITH: Do you believe that the Gulf summit set for 26 December in Riyadh will be held as scheduled? What do you expect it to achieve, will any particular major issue be given priority over other topics, and does the UAE have a special working paper for this summit?

Shaykh Zayid: Yes, we do have a working paper that the UAE will submit. It calls for more solidarity between brothers so that we can set an example for our other brothers to follow. We want our solidarity and our cooperation to be something that will make our other brothers want to do what we have done and thus follow the same course.

AL-HAWADITH: There is also the Washington summit between U.S. President Reagan and Soviet General Secretary Gorbachev. Do you think the Middle East question will find its way onto their agenda, and are any Arab efforts being made toward this end?

Shaykh Zayid: There can be no guarantee when it comes to speculation about these states—that is, the Eastern camp as well as the Western camp—unless one knows their aims and ambitions. If we knew their goals, what they agree on, and when they are telling the truth, we

would then be able to assess matters and to speculate. However, we do not know what these two sides want. For example, the Soviet position on implementing the UN Security Council resolution to end the war between the two Muslim neighbors, Iraq and Iran, is one of careful approach and slow movement. The United States and the West, however, want it to be speedily implemented. If it was not in the interest of one to move slowly and in the interest of the other to move quickly, neither would then have adopted the stand it has taken. So there are interests involved.

AL-HAWADITH: Your Highness, do you firmly believe that this summit will be the sole road or one of the roads to peace?

Shaykh Zayid: As I have already stated, the summit of the two giants is a summit of the interests that motivate them and draw them to the concerns of others. If they did not have their own interests, they would not care about those of others at all. So, if each side has its own goals, then only when there is a common agreed interest between the two parties will matters be settled and will they succeed in attaining their goals.

AL-HAWADITH: You played a major part in the reconciliation between Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Saddam Husayn at the Amman summit. Will you continue your efforts to achieve the desired results? Also, how do you view the developments that took place following the "accord and agreement" summit?

Shaykh Zayid: We, as an Arab state, reaped and benefited considerably following the summit. I believe that the Amman summit went further in fulfilling a duty than any other Arab conference I have ever attended. The results of the Amman conference are much, much more successful than those of earlier talks. As for Iraq and Syria, there has been a very great rapprochement between them. I sensed this coming together when I visited Syria 3 months ago. This change made me happy. I thought that Iraq could take a step forward in the rapprochement, but instead I found that it was standing still. However, I thanked God, for I knew that Iraq had its preoccupation and did not have the time to devote to that step, to enable us to exert pressure and make requests. However, we thanked God, for we found the goodwill for rapprochement with Syria. I also found that my brother, His Majesty King Husayn, who was behind the previous initiative, was encouraging these renewed ties between Iraq and Syria. I asked him to keep in touch and to keep us informed so that we would be able to cooperate. If there is anything you want our help on, I told him, just let us know. We are willing to assist you, and we will also support you and bless your steps in any attempt you make yourselves for a smooth, uncomplicated road. King Husayn replied: I need every brother to help in promoting rapprochement between the two brothers. God willing, I will keep in touch with you. When the conference was held and the two [Al-Asad and Saddam Husayn] met, sat down together, and established an understanding between themselves, as we also joined in and discussed matters, an air of happiness and joy filled all our hearts. Neither Syria nor Iraq was resentful. Everything proceeded normally and in unison. This encouraged us to leave the matter in the hands of King Husayn, for he was the compelling force and the example at that conference. What he did to assist rapprochement between Iraq and Syria was commendable and great. Because of this, we gratefully entrusted him with the task of pursuing this matter. We also told him: We are prepared to provide any assistance you may require in connection with either of the two sides.

AL-HAWADITH: If peaceful international efforts to implement Security Council Resolution 598 fail to end the Iraq-Iran war, what other means are available?

Shaykh Zayid: This would mean that to dictate an end to the conflict, the Security Council resolution would have to be supported by all parties for it to be implemented. That would be the closest thing to ending the war. There is nothing else, and the foreign states will do no more than this. However, it would be better if there is an Arab attempt to intercede between Iraq and Iran, as a valuable periphery to the efforts being made by the members of the Security Council. I wish this would happen. In an interview with AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM prior to the conference, I was asked if anything short of another war could end that war. I replied that a conflict can never be resolved by another conflict, but that tolerance, patience, reason, and understanding can end a war. That is a better solution.

I took the view that the Amman conference should send three Arab leaders to mediate between Iran and Iraq, within a defined and specific context. Since Iran and Iraq each claim certain rights, the three neutral leaders who would travel to Iran would tell the Iranians: We are authorized to guarantee everything that we are able to concerning the claims that you have against your neighbor, Iraq. We not only represent ourselves but carry the authority of all the Arab leaders, out of concern for our Iranian Muslim neighbors, for our Iraqi brothers, and out of a desire to spare their resources and lives. If you listen to and accept our guarantee, especially since it is made on behalf of our brothers in the Arab world, we then ask you Iranians to withdraw your forces and to cease fighting. The same thing applies to Iraq. We guarantee all Iraq's proven claims, following the withdrawal of all forces by both sides. Arbitration by acceptable arbiters will then take place. We guarantee any proven claims supported by each side against the other, and we will pay for and make good on these claims. If they are due from Iraq, we will take them from Iraq and give them to its neighbor Iran. If the opposite is true, then Iran must pledge to make payments to us.

That should be the last stand. Logically speaking, since we need the Islamic states and since Iran is a neighbor and closer to us than many other Islamic states, we

should contain it with good deeds, a benevolent approach, and fraternal values. This is because our enemy, who is strong and well-supported, is nearby. This dictates that we should stick together as Arabs and seek the help of our Muslim brothers, wherever they may be, against this formidable and well-supported enemy.

AL-HAWADITH: We know that Lebanon has a special place in your heart. We also know that you have made sincere efforts to end the plight of that genuine and enduring Arab country. However, the years are passing, and the noble efforts to save Lebanon are not realizing their objective. What, in your view, is the possible solution? Do you believe that it will be a long time before we see an end to Lebanon's suffering?

Shaykh Zayid: If Lebanon's ills were internal, we would have been able to speculate about a solution. Some Arab leaders would go to Lebanon, listen to the various parties, and discuss the problems and methods of solving it. They would manage to solve the disagreement in one way or another and satisfy all sides. However, what is happening in Lebanon is not the work of its people. It is the result of interference by many foreign parties and states, both near and far. This prevents a solution. Lebanon is now like a human being who has contracted several diseases; when you treat one affliction, the others become more acute, thus leaving the doctor confused about what to do. This is Lebanon's situation. I wish that its condition and conflicts were of its own making, for then we would be able to solve them easily. However, what I have stated about interference leaves us all at a loss to find a solution.

AL-HAWADITH: Do you have any plan for aid to Lebanon in its economic crisis and that of its daily living conditions, pending a political solution?

Shaykh Zayid: On matters of livelihood, helping Lebanon is a duty. It is the duty of every Arab and Muslim to cover all of Lebanon's shortages of essential, nonmilitary goods. However, this does not include arms or instruments of war, for this would be impermissible. It is the duty of all brothers to provide all essential nonlethal aid.

AL-HAWADITH: The Israelis are once again threatening to invade Lebanon. How should such an invasion be confronted?

Shaykh Zayid: If Israel did invade Lebanon, then the Arabs would have no choice but confrontation.

AL-HAWADITH: You were the first state to restore full diplomatic relations with Egypt after the Amman summit. The GCC states and some other Arab states then followed suit. How do you envisage the Arab role of Egypt in the next phase?

Shaykh Zayid: Egypt's role in all Arab states and in all Arab confrontations is a fraternal one. It cannot be anything but this. That is what we expect from Egypt and from all Egypt's brothers, from the ocean to the Gulf.

AL-HAWADITH: The UAE was the third GCC state, after Kuwait and Oman, to establish relations with the Soviets. What were the political considerations that dictated this step?

Shaykh Zayid: The considerations that dictated our action were our knowledge and our realization that there is no difference between the Soviet Union and other states.

AL-HAWADITH: Your Highness, you recently visited the Moroccan Kingdom for awhile and held contacts with the Arab Maghreb states. Did your efforts touch on outstanding regional issues between these states, and did you discern any positive results as far as solving these problems between neighbors and brothers is concerned?

Shaykh Zayid: Yes, we learned that there is a greater rapprochement than many people had hoped for. Rapprochement is now a noticeable and known reality. I saw and sensed this clearly when I was with His Majesty King Hassan. I asked his majesty what he thought of the UN commission on the Sahara, of its role, and of its advantages. He replied: God knows that I do not want a victor and a vanquished. It would not make me happy to defeat my brother; nor should my brother be pleased to defeat me. We should all be together, all rejoicing with a face-saving resolution. This is because my brother's happiness is my happiness, and any harm to him is harm to me, and vice versa. One cannot benefit while the other suffers. His majesty added that no one can benefit from the partition of any Arab state anywhere. I blessed this line of reasoning, and I prayed to God to grant us the benefit of his majesty and other leaders like him in our Arab world.

AL-HAWADITH: Your Highness, what, in your opinion, is the significance and what will be the repercussions of the recent fedayeen operation mounted against an Israeli military camp?

Shaykh Zayid: I believe that its advantages equal its disadvantages; its benefits are not greater than its drawbacks. As far as the Palestinians are concerned, it was their duty to do what they did, the more so since their land is occupied, their people persecuted, and their wealth usurped. As far as the Arabs are concerned, the pluses do not outweigh the minuses. Evidence of this is the threat now directed against Syria. This threat will continue, from the moment of mobilization to the moment of catastrophe or to the moment of confrontation with Syria. What losses will Syria suffer? As one and the same nation, it is not easy for us, whether we like it or not, to have our rights usurped or to be defeated. This

is not easy, for we make our calculations and conserve our resources for tomorrow, so that we can assist one another when the Arab nation needs this support.

AL-HAWADITH: In your view, to what extent have the "Peninsula Shield" experiment and the joint exercises of the GCC forces been successful?

Shaykh Zayid: They have been as successful as a planted and grown tree whose owner has not yet picked the fruit. We have planted the tree, which has now grown tall. We hope to harvest its fruit.

AL-HAWADITH: To what extent has the policy of joint defense been confirmed in dealings among the GCC member states?

Shaykh Zayid: There is a joint defense policy among the GCC states. A Muslim cannot make a promise and then renege on it.

AL-HAWADITH: According to statistics, per capita income in the UAE is the highest in the world. In light of the development plan, would you say that the UAE citizen is the happiest in the world?

Shaykh Zayid: Only God knows, but I hope that our citizens are; I really do.

AL-HAWADITH: Observers believe that $25 billion have been invested in building 820 plants in the UAE. What is the return from industry in the UAE?

Shaykh Zayid: Actually, I have not examined the return from industry or that from merchants in the UAE (laughing) or from those who own the commerce and industry. I have not yet closely examined these, but I can see that these figures are suitable and comfortable. Therefore, I am satisfied.

AL-HAWADITH: You have provided facilities for minesweepers at ports in the state. These sites include storage and anchorage locations, as well as facilities for crew transfers between ship and shore. What role are these installations playing in the interest of peace in the Gulf?

Shaykh Zayid: It is our duty to provide these facilities, for they [not further specified] have come a long way and have cleared our Gulf and our waters of objects that endanger our people and our children. The least we can do is open our ports to them so that they can freely obtain the supplies they need.

AL-HAWADITH: Your Highness, would the UAE seek Japan's mediation with Iran—by virtue of the interlinked economic interests of the UAE, Japan, and Iran—to implement Resolution 598?

Shaykh Zayid: That is a possibility.

AL-HAWADITH: In Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan's own candid way, tell me what the state of relations is between the UAE and the United States.

Shaykh Zayid: Our relations with the United States are in fact based on frankness, whether it likes it or not. We have always been completely frank with the United States. We have never appeased it on any matter, whether large or small. However small or young the UAE may be, it has never abandoned its frankness and courage.

AL-HAWADITH: Will oil prices stabilize? Do you expect them to go up or down? Could there be a return to the use of oil as a political weapon?

Shaykh Zayid: I hope to God not, and I hope that we do not have to use oil as a political weapon. If we did decide to use oil in this manner, it would be because there was no other way. Oil is our livelihood and our sole reliable source of national income.

AL-HAWADITH: How useful do you think it would be for Dubai to play the role of opposition within the union? Also, is it true that your Gulf policy is closer to the stand of your neighbor the Sultanate of Oman than it is to that of your neighbors Saudi Arabia and Kuwait?

Shaykh Zayid: There is no rivalry or adversity between us and our brothers in the GCC. All we seek is greater opportunity to bring everyone, including ourselves, closer together. We consider it a favor and an act of generosity toward us whenever a brother listens to our advice on this solidarity and rapprochment. As for the second part of your question on Dubai, I believe that one sometimes makes mistakes and at other times does the right thing. If, with God's guidance, Dubai does the right thing, then it will be a part of the council, just like its brothers in the UAE. This is because neither Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Ra's al-Khaymah, 'Ajman, Umm al-Qaywayn, Sharjah, nor Al-Fujayrah can deviate. Deviation is alien. It is rejected and cannot take place. We have a supreme council of all the rulers of the Emirates. We cannot ever emerge from this council by taking anything but one and the same course. We should not each have our own way, for the council is the impregnable fence of the state. I, as the chairman of the council, as chosen by the rulers and the people, cannot have my own way, leave the council, or deviate from it.

Yemen Arab Republic

Soviet Delegation Arrives for Economic Talks

JN102101 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 10 Dec 87

[Text] Osadchuk, deputy chairman of the USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations and head of the Soviet delegation to the joint Yemeni-Soviet committee for economic and technical cooperation, arrived

in Sanaa this evening on a 6-day visit to our country. Osadchuk is leading the Soviet delegation to the second session of the joint committee, which will begin in Sanaa on Saturday.

In a statement to SABA, the Soviet official noted that the joint Yemeni-Soviet committee will discuss a number of issues related to various sectors of economic and technical cooperation between the two friendly countries. This particularly refers to irrigation and industry. He stated that at the conclusion of this session, the committee will then sign the minutes. These will define spheres of future cooperation and ways to develop and reinforce cooperation to benefit the two friendly peoples and countries.

Osadchuk was received at the airport by Brother Dr Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar, deputy prime minister, minister of development, chief of the Central Organ for Planning, and member of the Standing Committee; the under secretaries of the Ministries of Petroleum and Mineral Resources, Public Works, and Agriculture and Fisheries, and the Central Planning Department; Veniamin Popov, the USSR ambassador to Sanaa; and the staff of the Soviet Embassy.

Ethiopian Official Amanuel Begins Visit

JN071838 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic
1700 GMT 7 Dec 87

[Text] Amanuel Amde Michael, senior deputy minister in Socialist Ethiopia, arrived in Sanaa this afternoon for a visit of several days. He will deliver a message from His Excellency Mengistu Haile Mariam, chairman of the Provisional Military Administrative Council in Ethiopia. The visitor told SABA upon his arrival that his visit is part of a tour of Middle Eastern countries, to brief their leaders on constitutional changes in Ethiopia.

Dr Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar, deputy prime minister, minister of development, and member of the Standing Committee; other members of the Standing Committee; and the Ethiopian charge d'affaires in Sanaa received the Ethiopian official.

Meets With President Salih

JN091415 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 9 Dec 87

[Text] Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, received Amanuel Michael in his office at the Republican Palace in Al-Hudaydah at noon today. Amanuel is a member of the Political Bureau of the Workers' Party of Ethiopia and deputy chairman of the State Council of the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia [PDRE]. Amanuel Michael gave the brother leader president a messsage from President Mengistu Haile Mariam, chairman of the PDRE State Council, on the issues concerning the two friendly countries, their relations, and international developments.

The meeting was attended by Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and member of the Standing Committee; Dr Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar, deputy prime minister, minister of development, chief of the Central Planning Department, and member of the Standing Committee; and the PDRE ambassador to Sanaa.

Chirac Sends Letter Explaining Talks With Iran

JN110939 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0910 GMT 11 Dec 87

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Dec (INA)—President Saddam Husayn received a letter from French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac yesterday. In his note, Chirac explained France's position on the Iraq-Iran war and its policy toward the Arab world.

Chirac stressed that the current talks between France and Iran will not lead to arms supplies for Iran, and will not hurt the friendly relations that exist between France and Iraq and between France and the Arab countries.

Iraqi Ambassador Cited on U.S. Gulf Policy

PM111053 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic
9 Dec 87 p 11

[Interview with 'Abd al-Amir al-Anbari, ambassador to the United States, by Muhammad 'Ali Salih in Washington; date not given]

[Text] [AL-MAJALLAH] The new U.S. secretary of defense, Frank Carlucci, made some statements recently in which he said he was studying the possibility of reducing the size of the U.S. fleet in the Gulf. What impact have these remarks had on the war with Iran and the regional situation?

[Al-Anbari] The presence of the U.S. Navy in the Gulf—its size, policy, doctrine, and operations—is something best decided by the United States itself. In any case, the fleet is in international waters, and as far as I know, its goal is not to attack anyone but to protect navigation. Iraq has nothing to do with its presence or absence. Iraq is not using the Gulf due to the Iranian siege and Tehran's control of the Straits of Hormuz. At the same time, though, Iraq is trying to prevent Iran from using the Gulf by bombing its installations and ships, and those vessels that deal with it. These operations do not cover international waters, but only that area which Iran itself has defined.

[AL-MAJALLAH] Since your arrival in Washington, have you met the new U.S. secretary of defense? And do you see any differences between him and his predecessor, Caspar Weinberger?

[Al-Anbari] I met Carlucci on the eve of his appointment as secretary of defense. I think that the secretary of defense represents the policy of his government, and does not pursue a personal program. Carlucci is well known for his expertise in international relations, and is qualified to carry out American policy in the best possible way.

[AL-MAJALLAH] The American press reported recently that Iraqi jets nearly bombed a U.S. destroyer in the Gulf, and that the destroyer almost fired on the aircraft. However, they said that the incident was averted at the last moment. Did that happen? Do you have any comment?

[Al-Anbari] Those are press reports. I do not know if it happened. However, the important thing is that, even if those stories are true, nothing negative has taken place. That, in turn, shows the ability of both sides to avoid actions that neither intended.

[AL-MAJALLAH] Have you received any information from Baghdad on what happened?

[Al-Anbari] I do not think it is proper for any comment or confirmation to come from the Iraqi Government. Those are military matters. The reports on this incident have not been confirmed, not even by the United States.

[AL-MAJALLAH] According to other reports in the American press, Iraq is using U.S. satellite photos of Iranian installations in its bombing of those facilities. Is that true?

[Al-Anbari] In fact, we do not need satellite photos to bomb Iranian installations. We have precise information on all Iranian movements and the locations of their facilities. After 7 years of war experience, I can say that we are more knowledgeable, perhaps more knowledgeable than the Iranians themselves, about Iranian affairs.

[AL-MAJALLAH] The American press carried another report that the U.S. fleet in the Gulf has been able to neutralize Farsi Island, and is on its way to neutralize Abu Musa Island, so as to tighten its control over both. What sort of impact has that had on military operations in the Gulf?

[Al-Anbari] I read that story. As far as Iraq is concerned, Farsi Island has been successfully attacked on several occasions by Iraqi jets. The press itself indicated that Iran is using the island to launch attacks and commit acts of piracy against navigation in the Gulf and against states in the region. The American Navy's neutralization of these islands has had no effect on Iraqi military operations against them. They are a legitimate target for us.

[AL-MAJALLAH] American officials have said that their country's protection of ships flying the U.S. flag does not extend to the waters around Kuwait and Kuwait itself. Will that influence the course of events in the Gulf?

[Al-Anbari] Regardless of what may be said or published about America's views, there is one important thing that cannot be ignored: Iran is not aiming solely

at Iraq, but at all the states of the region. We see it as an Arab-Persian confrontation. Iran's attack on fraternal Kuwait, and its aggression against the most sacred Arab and Muslim shrines in Holy Mecca, are two new pieces of evidence that substantiate what we have said all along. They also confirm an absence of truth in Iran's excuses.

[AL-MAJALLAH] The Arab summit in Amman was successful in uniting Arab ranks. What effect has this triumph had on contacts and Arab coordination in Washington, especially on your contacts with the Egyptian and Syrian ambassadors?

[Al-Anbari] One of the Arab summit's positive aspects was that it clarified the situation. It confirms what Iraq has always said, namely, that the danger is not just to Iraq but to all Arabs, from the Gulf to the ocean. It is no less a peril than Israeli aggression. Every Arab ambassador in Washington was pleased and proud of the summit resolutions and its confirmation of Iraq's position.

[AL-MAJALLAH] Did your contacts include a meeting with the Egyptian ambassador?

[Al-Anbari] Yes, I met with the Egyptian envoy. He is a distinguished ambassador, and one of the most prominent Arab envoys in the United States. In fact, even when I was in London I had the honor of attending Egyptian functions, and the Egyptian ambassador, Yusuf Shararah, used to attend Iraqi functions.

[AL-MAJALLAH] What about the Syrian charge d'affaires in Washington?

[Al-Anbari] The meetings of Arab ambassadors in Washington are restricted to ambassadors. They do not include those of lesser rank.

[AL-MAJALLAH] However, that does not prevent the possibility of contacts if there were a Syrian ambassador in Washington.

[Al-Anbari] That is true. However, it is also linked to bilateral relations between Iraq and Syria.

[AL-MAJALLAH] You were Iraq's ambassador to the United Kingdom, and now you occupy that post in the United States. How do you compare the two countries in their willingness to understand the Arab viewpoint?

[Al-Anbari] Naturally, the United States is the leader of the Western world. On the other hand, the United Kingdom is very important, largely by virtue of its historical experience in the Middle East. As far as the Iraq-Iran war is concerned, I can say their policy is in harmony. We were happy to see them support Security Council Resolution 598, which laid down a plan for a peaceful and honorable end to the conflict. We were also pleased with their readiness to impose sanctions on Iran as the party that rejected implementation of the resolution.

PNPF Urges UN To Implement Resolution 598

JN101350 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1035 GMT 10 Dec 87

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Dec (INA)—The General Secretariat of the Iraqi Progressive National and Patriotic Front [PNPF] has appealed to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to assume his responsibilities and implement the sanctions stipulated in letter and spirit by UN Security Council Resolution 598 against the party that rejects both the resolution and peace.

In a message to Perez de Cuellar today, PNPF Secretary General Hasan 'Ali said both the United Nations and the Security Council, which have been entrusted with the task of maintaining peace and resolving disputes among states, are responsible for the continuation of the war and the resulting bloodshed and destruction. They are also to blame for today's imminent danger, as shown by developments in the region caused by the Iranian aggressors involvement of other parties.

Hasan 'Ali added that years after the war began, the Security Council found a sound solution to the conflict and issued Resolution 598 unanimously. That document was an expression of the international community's will and its belief in peace. He pointed out that Iraq accepted the resolution by virtue of its principles, while Iran, as usual, rejected it.

He said the international community confidently awaits the next steps which the Security Council must take against the party that rejects Resolution 598. These measures will be in implementation of the sanctions stipulated in the resolution against the party that rejects it.

Concluding his message, the PNPF secretary general highlighted Iran's procrastination, noting that Tehran is trying to buy time to carry out its expected aggression against Iraq.

Saddam Husayn Inspects II Corps Units

JN101721 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1707 GMT 10 Dec 87

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Dec (INA)—President Saddam Husayn, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, has inspected the II Army Corps central sector. His excellency was welcomed by the commander of the II Army Corps and a number of other commanders. During his tour of several II Army Corps units, his excellency was reassured about the impregnable measures and defensive arrangements to deter any Iranian aggression.

The Iraqi fighters renewed their pledge to sacrifice themselves and to remain loyal for the sake of Iraq's nobility. They pledged to defend Iraq's sacred soil and the dignity of the glorious Arab nation against the rancorous aggression of the Iranian regime.

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Operations

Iranian Oil Tanker Attacked

JN101608 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1542 GMT 10 Dec 87

[Text] London, 10 Dec (INA)—The British insurance company Lloyds has announced that a missile fired from an Iraqi warplane yesterday hit the Iranian oil tanker "Susangird." The vessel was sailing from Khark to Larak Island. Lloyds told the INA correspondent in London today that the Iranian tanker was hit by the Iraqi missile in the eastern part of the Arab Gulf. Lloyds said the tanker was set ablaze as a result.

Second Missile Hits Tanker

JN111115 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1050 GMT 11 Dec 87

[Text] London, 11 Dec (INA)—The British insurance company Lloyds announced this morning that the Iranian oil tanker "Susangird" was hit by a second Iraqi missile at 1030 [0730 GMT] yesterday while sailing off the Iranian coast.

Lloyds informed the INA office in London that fire had broken out for the second time aboard the 111,187-tonne Iranian tanker, which was built in 1973.

Iraqi fighter aircraft hit the Iranian tanker for the first time on 9 December, as it was shuttling between Khark Island and Larak Island, setting it ablaze.

Communique 2,945

JN101539 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1505 GMT 10 Dec 87

[Communique No 2,945 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 10 December]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Praise be to God and our heroic Air Force, Iraq's sword in the face of falsehood and the advocates of war, and defender of the Arab nation's pride. It will remain prominent evidence of Iraq's loftiness, skill, and strength in the preservation of its religion, territory, and sovereignty. Our heroic Air Force will also remain the permanent witness to and shining proof of the defeat of our country's enemies, their bankruptcy in their aggressive war against our people, and the method of implementing our people's will. Today and last night, our daring pilots flew the following heroic missions:

1. At 2300 [2000 GMT] yesterday, a large maritime target near the Iranian coast was dealt an accurate and effective blow.

2. At 1030 today, our planes dealt another accurate and effective blow to a second large maritime target near the Iranian coast.

3. At 1315, dozens of our aircraft launched a violent raid on selected targets at a sugar factory south of Dezful; their objectives were pounded.

4. At 1345, a number of our planes conducted a strong raid on selected targets at a sugar factor east of Kermanshah [Bakhtaran] and destroyed their objectives.

5. In 75 combat missions flown by our pilots along the front today, heavy losses and extensive damage were inflicted on enemy assembly points, positions, weapons, and hardware.

After completing all these missions deep inside Iran and along the battlefront, all our planes returned safely and triumphantly to base in God's care and protection. Thus, the regime of charlatans, the slave of Zionism ruling in Iran, will reap only frustration and continuous defeats from its insistence on prolonging the war.

Blessed be our Air Force—commanders, hawks, officers, and men—for their efforts to protect the homeland and defend its honor. May God give them the reward He reserves for honest fighters.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 10 December 1987

Communique No 2,946

JN101713 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 10 Dec 87

[Communique No 2,946 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 10 December]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. In defense of great Iraq and the principles of its glorious revolution, our valiant Armed Forces have continued their heroic confrontation of the despotic Khomeyniites. The results of their activities for last night and today are as follows:

1. In the II Army Corps central sector, one enemy soldier was killed and five observation posts, three infantry positions, and one large vehicle were destroyed.

2. In the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah, our units pounded and halted enemy engineering operations. In the same sector one heavy gun and five ammunition dumps were destroyed and one ammunition dump was blown up.

3. In the IV Army Corps sector, one scoundrel was killed and a number of others were wounded.

4. In the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris, one large vehicle was destroyed.

5. In the VII Army Corps sector, two enemy personnel were killed and one single-barreled machinegun, six infantry positions, and one observation post were destroyed.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 10 December 1987

Fighting in North Denied

JN101555 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1535 GMT 10 Dec 87

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Dec (INA)—Iraq has denied Iranian claims that minor battles have taken place in the Chamchamal, Al-Sulaymaniyah, and Kirkuk areas. In a statement to INA a short while ago, an Iraqi spokesman described these assertions as baseless lies, which affirm the Iranian regime's failure to achieve its objectives in Iraq's northern border areas. The spokesman explained that this region is secure, and that all of Iran's attempts to export terrorism there have failed.

Terrorist Commando Boats Sent Against Navy

TA111347 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 11 Dec 87 p A1

[Report by Shefi Gabay]

[Text] Palestinian terrorist organizations have recently sent fast commando boats, equipped with missiles, on suicide operations against the Israeli Navy along the coasts of Tyre, Sidon, and as far as Beirut. This was reported by the Beirut weekly AL-KIFAH AL-'ARABI.

The magazine reports that the boats manned by crews of suicide squads were sent to Lebanon's coasts following the proliferation of Israeli gunships in the area where it has been blockading Lebanon's coasts and ports, particularly after the hang glider attack. Citing terrorist and Israeli intelligence sources, AL-KIFAH AL-'ARABI reports that as a result of the purchase of these commando boats, and their transfer to the coasts of Lebanon, the Israeli Air Force recently increased its reconnaissance flights over Lebanon's coastline.

Navy, Terrorists Clash; IDF Officer Killed

TA110529 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 11 Dec 87

[Text] Ensign 'Amit Sela', 21, of Kibbutz Nahsholim, was killed last night in a clash off the Lebanese coast between an Israel Navy ship and a vessel manned by terrorists. Our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal has the following details:

At approximately 2200 [2000 GMT], a Navy patrol detected a terrorist ship at sea off the Lebanese coast, not far from the Al-Litani River estuary. The terrorists opened fire at the Navy boat and hit Ensign 'Amit Sela'. The Navy soldiers opened fire and sank the terrorists' boat. It is estimated that four terrorists were aboard the boat.

Unrest Escalates in Gaza; Casualties Reported

2 Dead From Riots 9 Dec

TA101529 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 10 Dec 87 p 3

[Report by Tamar Trabelsi]

[Excerpt] An IDF patrol, which was making its way through the narrow alleys of the Jabalyah refugee camp on the outskirts of Gaza yesterday morning, spotted several dozen youths gathered near the local high school.

The soldiers in the car approached the youths and were met with an unpleasant surprise: a spate of stones was showered on them followed by two firebombs. One of the bombs hit the car and its tarpaulin roof went up in flames.

The fire caused the atmosphere to become tense. Some of the youths tried to set the car on fire and even hurt the soldiers.

Within a minute the order was given: the soldiers opened fire on the mob. A 17-year-old high school student, Hatim al-Susi, was killed in the first salvo. Seventeen of his friends were wounded, some of them sustaining severe injuries, and were rushed to hospitals in Gaza and Ashqelon. Two of the wounded, one of them seriously injured, were taken to the Soroka Medical Center in Beersheba aboard an IDF helicopter.

One of the wounded, 20-year-old Ra'd Shahhada of Jabalyah, died on the operating table at the Al-Shafa'ah Hospital in Gaza. [passage omitted]

Youth Dies 10 Dec

TA102052 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 2030 GMT 10 Dec 87

[Text] An 11-year-old boy, a Khan Yunus resident, died at the Soroka Hospital in Beersheba this evening from wounds received as the result of IDF soldiers' fire during the riots in the Gaza Strip today. All in all, about 10 Gaza Strip residents were hurt during today's riots. Our military correspondent Alon Ben-David notes that the security forces are preparing to prevent a renewed flareup of disturbances in the Gaza Strip and in Judaea and Samaria tomorrow.

Alert Maintained 11 Dec

TA110800 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0730 GMT 11 Dec 87

[Text] Tense quiet is prevailing in the territories at the moment. The security forces are preparing for possible disturbances and riots there. Our correspondent in the territories, Zohar Melamed, has telephoned us from the Gaza Strip.

[Begin recording] A Molotov cocktail was thrown last night at the police station in Gaza's Al-Madinah Square. The bottle caught fire but did not cause any damage.

This incident was the only one which disrupted the quiet in Gaza last night, but disturbances are possible in the region over the weekend. One of the reasons is the death of a 12-year-old boy from Khan Yunus who was wounded by security forces yesterday and died of his wounds in the hospital. The assessment is that incidents may take place today when Muslim crowds end their prayers in the mosques and tomorrow at the Gaza university. The security forces are deploying reinforcements to maintain quiet in Gaza over the weekend. [end recording]

Curfew Imposed in Balatah

TA111223 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 11 Dec 87

[Text] A youth was shot and slightly wounded by IDF soldiers at the Balatah refugee camp near Nabulus during a violent riot by dozens of youths. The IDF soldiers first tried to repel them with tear gas and rubber bullets, and then had to resort to shooting. A curfew was imposed on the camp.

Our correspondent Arye Gus adds that a march was held in downtown Nabulus today to protest the latest incidents in the territories.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1130 GMT adds: "There were several minor incidents in Gaza today, in which stones were thrown and tires were set on fire across town. At noon, the disturbances centered around the (Al-Saja'iyah) neighborhood where tires were set on fire, roads were blocked, and stones were thrown. There were several stone-throwing incidents in the Jabalyah refugee camp as well."]

More Disturbances; 3 Killed

TA111448 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 11 Dec 87

[Text] Three youths were killed and more than five were wounded at the Balatah refugee camp near Nabulus. The bodies of the dead people were transferred to a hospital in Nabulus, but were later snatched and returned to the camp.

Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the three were killed during the dispersal of a violent demonstration by dozens of youths. At first Border Police forces tried to disperse the demonstrators by using tear gas and rubber bullets, but they were later forced to fire in the direction of the demonstrators. A curfew was imposed on the camp.

There were disturbances today also in the Gaza Strip, especially stone throwing at security forces. Following the tension that has prevailed in the past few days, large forces were deployed in the area to forestall an escalation in distubances of the peace.

Studies were interrupted in schools in the Gaza Strip because of the absence of large numbers of students. An ITIM correspondent reports that only a few of the Gaza Strip's residents left for work in Israel.

IDF Adopts Tougher Policy

TA111357 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 11 Dec 87 pp 1, 7

[Report by Uri Dvir and Eytan Rabin]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Security sources estimate that the agitation in the territories will continue for the next few days. Today is the 20th anniversary of the establishment of George Habash's PFLP organization, which has been used in the past as a pretext for demonstrations and riots. Slogans expressing support for the organization on its anniversary were painted yesterday in several spots along the Jerusalem-Nabulus road. Security sources fear that violent demonstrations may erupt after the completion of Friday prayers in mosques, particularly in the Gaza Strip, although the West Bank may join in. IDF patrols and border police units in the territories have been reinforced in the last few days.

The defense establishment has decided to implement a more heavy-handed policy than formerly favored in dealing with disturbances in the Balatah refugee camp, near Nabulus. As part of this policy, larger border police forces were sent into the camp, with instructions to pursue stonethrowers and rioters and to apprehend them.

As a matter of fact, the incident in which a resident tried to stab a border policeman in the camp yesterday was a result of this new policy. Border policemen were engaged in the pursuit of a youth who had been seen hurling stones in their direction from within a group of rioters. The youth ran home, and the soldiers broke into the house after him. As they were trying to arrest him, his mother assaulted them brandishing a knife. She was bruised while grappling with one of the soldiers. Arab sources in Nabulus have reported that the woman, 40-year old Aminah Sinaqrah, who was taken to a hospital in Nabulus, suffered bruises over her entire body.

The new policy in Balatah was adopted as a result of the recent situation in which youths in the camp terrorized younger boys into taking part in riots. The new policy was preceded by a long period in which confrontations with rioters were avoided whenever possible, but with time it became evident that this line provoked the rioters to even greater daring, and thus to more dangerous exploits. It was therefore decided to adopt a much firmer policy aimed at deterring rioters and preventing the possibility that the Balatah camp situation would spread to other problematic spots in the West Bank.

Officials in the defense establishment do not connect the recent wave of riots to any political developments. Defense sources link these disturbances to the usual incitement and violent agitation that occurs in the wake of incidents in which Arabs in the West Bank or the Gaza Strip are killed or wounded in confrontations with the security forces or with Jewish settlers. This was also the nature of last week's events in the Gaza Strip. As in the past, there is a violent, two-way "projection" between the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. This was the case yesterday when a wave of disturbances spread from Gaza into Judaea and Samaria. [passage omitted]

Al-Shawwa on Gaza Violence

TA101907 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 10 Dec 87

[Text] The former mayor of Gaza City, Rashad al-Shawwa, says the violence on the Gaza Strip reflects the

bitter frustration of 20 years of Israeli rule. In an interview with reporter Steve Rodan Al-Shawwa he said that 650,000 residents of the Gaza Strip are turning to fundamentalism in the absence of any other solution to their plight.

[Begin Al-Shawwa recording] Well, to start with, what has been going on is very regrettable. We do not preach violence, we are against violence. We are against manslaughter, we are against killing innocent people, but one should expect such things after 20 years of miserable occupation. The people have lost all hope. They are absolutely frustrated. They don't know what to do. They have taken a line of fundamentalists, being the last resort that they can look up to.

They have lost hope that Israel will ever give them their rights. They feel the Arab countries are unable to accomplish anything. They feel that the PLO, which they regarded as their representative, has failed to accomplish anything. Therefore, they have reverted to God. Perhaps God will help them get rid of Israeli occupation. This is the overwhelming feeling of the people, and what has been going on is a mere expression of dissatisfaction and anger because of the continuation of Israeli occupation. [end recording]

Gaza Resident To Be Deported

TA111411 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 9 Dec 87 p 2

[Text] Gaza—The military authorities issued a deportation order yesterday against 'Abd-al-Fattah Ziyara, a 49-year-old Gaza resident. It is worth noting that Ziyara had spent 18 years in Israeli prisons on security charges. After his release the military authorities refused to provide him with an identity card and subsequently detained him for 2 months in Ashqelon prison.

Rabin Knesset Remarks on Anti-Terrorism Policy

TA082110 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 8 Dec 87

[Excerpts] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin this evening disclosed that in November 1987 an increase in terrorist activity was recorded. The defense minister was replying in the Knesset to a no-confidence motion submitted by the Tehiya faction in the wake of the increase in terrorist acts. Mr Rabin sent his condolences to the family of the late Shlomo Saqal who was murdered in Gaza this past Sunday. There is no doubt that whoever murdered Saqal intended to harm the fabric of relations between Jews and Arabs, the defense minister said. Our Knesset correspondent Elimelekh Ram reports from the studio.

[Begin videorecording] [Ram] [Passage omitted] The defense minister said there are no short cuts as far as the anti-terrorism fight is concerned. There is no one war to end all wars. This is an ongoing struggle whose aim is to result in a minimum of bloodshed. Efforts and the willingness to cope with enemies are necessary until we reach an overall solution. Nevertheless, Rabin emphasized, this war does not replace the search for a political solution. The defense minister admits that the defense establishment's anti-terrorism policy came under fire from his close colleagues as well.

[Rabin] Criticism was leveled at me even by my close colleagues: Why did you reinstitute deportation after a period when no deportations were effected? Why did you introduce administrative detention after it was out of use for 7 years? Why do you adopt this or that kind of move? I believe that the anti-terrorism war, regardless of any view as to the form of the political solution, is a condition for the promotion of peace. Without proving to the Arab countries that they can gain nothing through wars, without likewise proving to the terrorist organizations and those Arab rulers who support and provide them cover that they can gain nothing through terror, we will not create conditions that will make progress toward peace possible. [end recording]

Distribution of AL-FAJR Banned for 10 Days

TA101928 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 10 Dec 87

[Text] The Military Government today banned the distribution in the territories of the daily AL-FAJR for 10 days. The prohibition will go into effect tomorrow. The reason for the ban is the publication of headlines and photographs in this morning's issue containing information on the Gaza events, which the paper failed to submit to the censors for their approval. The papers' editors were summoned to the Civil Administration in the afternoon where they were advised of the prohibition.

Publication Halted in Protest

TA111510 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 11 Dec 87 p 1

[Excerpts] Jerusalem—The Israeli Civil Administration issued an order yesterday banning AL-FAJR's distribution in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip for 10 days. The restriction begins today, Friday, 11 December, until the evening of Sunday, 20 December. [passage omitted]

While expressing its strong protest and indignation at the unjust Israeli decision, AL-FAJR affirms to the public that this decision was taken on purely political, and not "security," motives as the Israeli authorities are claiming to justify this measure.

Since the Israeli decision means AL-FAJR's isolation from the broad masses of readers in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and the confining of its distribution to only the city of Jerusalem, AL-FAJR has decided to cease publication as of tomorrow, Saturday, 12 December. It will reappear on Monday morning, 21 December.

While expressing regret to its broad masses of readers in the occupied territories for ceasing publication for 10 days, AL-FAJR affirms that this measure will only

increase its resolve to carry out its journalistic mission. It is resolved to remain the committed national voice that expresses our people's aspirations for liberty and independence.

Labor Submits Document on Situation in Galilee

TA071455 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 7 Dec 87 p 3

[Report by Western Galilee correspondent Yosi Leibowitz]

[Text] The Galilee, "Israel's underbelly," is still mostly uninhabited. The Jewish population is sparse and no positive change has occurred in its demographic map for many years. The migration balance is negative and the Jewish population is decreasing by 1.5 percent annually.

At present there is already no Jewish majority in the north. The demographic statistics for 'Akko District, the Central and Western Galilee, the Hakeramim Valley, and the Misgav District are worrying: The population in these areas is 18 percent Jews and 82 percent non-Jews.

These statistics are included in a document prepared by the West Galilee Labor Party branch. The report will soon be submitted to the world convention of the Zionist Labor Movement and the Zionist Congress.

The document states that several difficult points have prevented the growth of the Jewish population in the Galilee, all of them connected to the disparity between the Galilee and the central part of Israel.

Per capita income in the Galilee is much lower than the average in central Israel, and no other sources for additional income exist.

Career prospects in the Galilee are limited both in scope and options; public transportation is scarce and very expensive; the absence of a technological higher education center deprives the young generation of proper professional training; cultural services and entertainment are also costly and scarce. The authors of the document add that there has recently been a significant deterioration in government settlement endowments. This hinders the absorption of new residents, delays the towns' development, and brings about cultural desolation.

Defense Seeks 'Some' Public Vanunu Hearings

TA101208 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 10 Dec 87

[Text] The defense counsel for Mordekhay Vanunu, who is standing trial for treason, has accepted a High Court recommendation to cancel a petition to hold the hearings in public. Under the recommendation, the defense will now go to the district court for an explanation of why the trial has to be held in camera. In the wake of this, the prosecution and the defense will try to reach agreement to hold some of the hearings in public. The Vanunu trial is due to resume in 2 weeks, when Foreign Minister Peres will testify.

Meanwhile, the Jerusalem Police are considering a complaint lodged by Vanunu claiming that he was beaten up and insulted by Border Police who escorted him from prison to the courtroom. Vanunu also claimed that he was attacked without being able to defend himself and that he was called a traitor. The Voice of Israel reporter says that the Border Police who normally accompany Vanunu were changed on the day he was attacked.

Gorbachev, Soviet Message Inferred From Summit

TA110712 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 11 Dec 87

[Exceerpts] Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev last night disclosed that he had asked President Reagan to reconsider the administration's stance on the international conference idea for the Middle East or, alternatively, a preparatory conference. Gorbachev said this in reply to a question during his news conference at the conclusion of his U.S. visit. During the Washington summit, our correspondent there, Shim'on Schiffer, spoke with several of the Middle East experts on the Soviet delegation.

[Begin recording] [Schiffer] The Soviet message to Israel emerging from talks with the most senior experts on the Soviet summit delegation is, as expected, a collection of contradictions. Yevgeniy Primakov, the Middle East expert in the Soviet delegation, angrily responded to my question on Israel's conditions for Soviet participation in the international conference.

[Primakov, speaking in English] We are not a country which would get any ultimatum or preconditions. Please do this with others.

[Schiffer] I pursued the issue: It was you who said it is not normal for the USSR not to maintain diplomatic relations with Israel.

[Primakov, speaking in English] We don't think that it is normal not having these diplomatic relations, but the process of restoration should be linked with the process of peaceful solution.

[Schiffer] The other Soviet spokesmen's tone was less aggressive and almost friendly. Georgiy Arbatov, the favorite of the U.S. media who has headed the United States of America and Canada Institute in Moscow for 20 years and who serves as one of the architects of the rapprochement between the two superpowers, placed the responsibility for the promotion of relations on the Israeli side.

[Arbatov, speaking in English] It depends [words indistinct]. If they are reasonable, they can do it, you know. We have [words indistinct]. I can tell you a nice story,

you know. One of my friends has said that from childhood he heard that Israelis are poor soldiers and very clever politicians. Now he is sure that they are very good soldiers but lousy politicians.

[Schiffer] In last night's news conference, Gorbachev disclosed that he had raised the international conference issue or, alternatively, the idea of preparing for such a conference with President Reagan. [passage indistinct]

[Schiffer] The preparations can take place in various frameworks: bilateral, tripartite, Israeli representatives meeting with Arab ones, and so on and so forth. One must not forget, however, that the Soviet position, as expressed in talks with the Soviets during the summit, is clear: A UN-sponsored conference, with the participation of the PLO and with the two superpowers playing a major role.

An announcement issued by the Soviets during the summit emphasizes that the USSR is not hostile toward Israel and recognizes Israel's legitimate right to exist. Is this complicated? Yes, indeed. [end recording]

Primakov on Relations

TA101844 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 10 Dec 87

[Text] Before we hear about today's events, we will talk to our correspondent in Washington who has learned that the Soviet Union does not plan to allow an Israeli consular delegation to come to Moscow. Our correspondent in Washington spoke with the expert on Middle East affairs in the Soviet delegation to the summit meeting. Shim'on Schiffer is at the media center in Washington. Good evening to you, Shim'on.

[Schiffer] Good evening to you. Yevgeniy Primakov is the expert on Middle East affairs in the Soviet delegation to the summit. He took part in the talks with the U.S. delegation. A short time ago we discussed a vast variety of issues, ranging from nuclear weapons in Israel's possession and the Vanunu affair to the international conference. Primakov said that we have learned both from Vanunu's disclosures and from others on the Israeli side that Israel manufactures nuclear weapons. He said we cannot rule out the possibility that the other side may not do the same, driving the conflict to new dimensions.

Primakov said political developments—or as he put it, the solution to the Israeli-Arab conflict—depend on the establishment of diplomatic relations between Israel and the Soviet Union.

As for the possibility of having an Israeli consular delegation making a reciprocal visit to Moscow, here is what Primakov said.

[Begin recording] [Primakov, speaking in English] In the consular mission we have many, many things to do there and they will [word indistinct] all the things would be settled.

[Schiffer, speaking in English] And you are not going to let the Israeli side to go to Moscow?

[Primakov, speaking in English] I don't think that we need the same mission in Moscow because they have no such problems as we face in Israel. [end recording]

[Schiffer] Our consular delegation will stay in Israel until it has completed all the tasks entrusted to it, Primakov said. I do not think we need an Israeli delegation in Moscow because they do not have the same problems we have, such as citizens and property.

As for the international conference, we raised the subject in our talks in Washington, Primakov noted. We see only one way to solving this problem: You need a comprehensive agreement no less than the other parties.

Commenting on the U.S. position, Primakov pointed out that the United States is not thrilled about the idea and is not prepared to declare its position.

Referring to the PLO, Primakov said the Soviet Union regards the PLO as the sole representative of the Palestinians. I am not prepared to discuss the nature of the Palestinian representation, this matter concerns the Palestinians and they are the ones who will decide about it, Primakov concluded.

MK Mi'ari Attends PLO Ceremony in Cairo

TA110737 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 11 Dec 87

[Text] Knesset Member Muhammad Mi'ari, of the Progressive List for Peace, participated in the ceremony opening the PLO offices in Cairo. This is reported this morning by the AL-SINARA paper which appears in Nazareth. Our correspondent in the north, Menahem Horowitz, reports that it was the Egyptian Embassy in Tel Aviv that coordinated Mi'ari's visit to Cairo, as well as a meeting between Mi'ari and Usamah al-Baz, President Mubarak's political adviser. Mi'ari confirmed that he also met with Yasir 'Arafat's brother, Dr Fathi 'Arafat, who directs the Palestinian Crescent Hospital in Cairo.

Egypt To Open Border to West Bank Residents

TA091414 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 8 Dec 87 p 1

[Text] It is expected that by 1 January 1988 the Egyptian authorities will open the Egyptian border at the Rafah crossing point for West Bank residents to travel to Egypt. A number of Palestinian notables had requested this from Egypt as a way to help travelers save on expenses.

Palestinian's Detention Linked to Jordan

TA111324 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 11 Dec 87 p 3

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Excerpt] Radwan Abu 'Ayyash, chairman of the union of Palestinian journalists in the West Bank, was placed under administrative detention as part of the coordination of policy between Israel and Jordan regarding the territories. Our correspondent has learned from foreign diplomatic and Israeli sources that Jordan submitted a "black list" of personalities to Israel and asked it to step up its actions against Jordan's opponents. [passage omitted]

Shi'ites Against Cooperation With Terrorists

TA101131 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 10 Dec 87 p 2

[ITIM Report]

[Text] Shi'ite leaders in southern Lebanon have asked the inhabitants of their villages not to cooperate with the terrorist organizations.

The leaders claim that cooperation with the terrorist organizations will result in an angry IDF reaction which will hamper the normal life of the inhabitants and bring back the difficult times which prevailed before the Peace for Galilee war.

Peres on Gaza Problem, South America Visit

TA101936 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 10 Dec 87

[Text] Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres believes that the Gaza Strip presents Israel with a demographic problem, rather than one of terror. Speaking in Qiryat Shemona today on the eve of his departure for South America, he also said that he hopes for closer ties with Brazil and Uruguay. Vivien Royston reports.

[Begin recording] [Royston] In light of the continued disturbances in the Gaza Strip, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres believes that the problem is not one of terror but of the composition and the nature of the State of Israel.

[Peres] Should we or shouldn't we add an additional 650,000 Arab people against their wish to the State of Israel, and in fact, endangering her democratic and Jewish character. That's the problem.

[Royston] A problem, he stressed, not of minds but of destinies. Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres departs this evening for a 10-day trip abroad. Most of the time will be spent in South America, where Peres hopes to be opening a new chapter in Israeli-Brazilian relations.

[Peres] It is the first time that the Government of Brazil has invited a foreign minister of Israel. It will lead, I hope, to the improvement of the relations between our two countries, including some economic cooperation.

[Royston] Peres will be accompanied by top Foreign Ministry aides, former Foreign Ministry Director David Kimche, and businessmen with interest in increasing trade between Israel and Brazil. After meeting President Jose Sarney, Foreign Minister Peres will travel to Montevideo, where he will meet with the Uruguayan president, Julio Maria Sanguinetti, to discuss the strengthening of commercial ties and technological cooperation. Enroute to Brazil Peres will stop over in New York where he will visit the Yeshiva University which is celebrating its 100th year.

[Peres] I hope they will build a branch in Israel, and I shall gladly participate in marking that day.

[Royston] The Yeshiva University will bestow an honorary doctorate on Peres at a gala dinner which will be addressed by Jihan al-Sadat. Vivien Royston, Qiryat Shemona. [end recording]

Norwegian Defense Minister Meets With Shamir

TA101509 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 10 Dec 87 p 1

[Report by political correspondent Yosi Melman]

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir does not believe in the sincerity of the USSR's intentions in signing the INF treaty. He thinks Israel can learn from the agreement that it is essential to negotiate from a position of strength.

In a conversation last night with Norwegian Defense Minister Johan Jorgen Holst, Shamir said that in his opinion Mikhail Gorbachev's real interest is in economic advantages for the USSR, rather than in nuclear arms limitation. According to prime minister's assessment, the agreement is something of an achievement for Reagan who had asserted that negotiations must be conducted from a position of strength. Yitzhaq Shamir subscribes to this stand and believes that the lesson for the Middle East is that only a strong Israel negotiating with its neighbors from a position of power can attain peace. The prime minister expressed his doubts that Middle East issues would be raised at all at the Washington summit talks.

Holds Talks With Rabin

TA101924 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 10 Dec 87

[Text] An Israeli delegation will leave for Norway in 3 days to solve the outstanding problems between the two countries with regard to heavy water. Norway wishes to know what use Israel has made of the heavy water supplied by it in the past. Defense Minister Yitzhaq

Rabin said that Israel adheres to the contracts it has signed on the matter. He made these remarks at the joint press conference held by him and Norwegian Defense Minister Johan Jorgen Holst. The visiting minister said that he had visited the north of Israel and heard of Israel's security problems. He added that Norway would continue sending soldiers to UNIFIL. This was reported by our correspondent Shmu'el Tal.

'Satisfaction' on Talks With U.S. Official

TA101504 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 10 Dec 87

[Text] Edward Derwinski, U.S. under secretary of state for security assistance, science, and technology, visited Israel this week. He met with the prime minister, the vice prime minister, and the defense minister. His talks in Israel were a continuation of the talks of the joint committee for security aid held last month in Washington.

Both sides expressed satisfaction with the visit's results. Details about the content of the talks were not released.

Herzog Leaves on Official Visit to London

TA101157 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 10 Dec 87

[Text] President Hayim Herzog left this morning for London for an official visit, during which he will be received by the queen and hold talks with Prime Minister Thatcher. President Herzog will also attend the Jewish community celebrations of the 40th anniversary of the State of Israel and the 70th anniversary of the Balfour Declaration.

Paper Calls Superpower Summit 'Disappointing'

JN111024 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
11 Dec 87 pp 1, 17

[Editorial: "The Lesson of the Superpower Summit"]

[Text] Reagan and Gorbachev have not had enough time to discuss the Arab-Israeli conflict, or the so-called Middle East issue. It is not yet clear if this question was examined by the working team formed by the United States and Soviet Union to study regional matters, or if the team itself did not have enough time to review it.

This harsh outcome was not unpredicted, as the two superpowers have their own calculations. These calculations are not necessarily influenced by our cause as long as the latter has no effect on their interests. Moreover, we should not forget that this outcome was a result of America's commitment to support Israeli aggression. In addition, it is a moral victory for the Israeli aggressors and their U.S. allies and will in no way whatsoever contribute to the regional peace process. Indeed, it may produce a setback that would decrease the chances for peace in the Middle East as never before.

It is high time that the Arabs recognize that the righteousness of their cause, their eagerness for peace, and their good intentions have no influence on the interests of the two superpowers or the interests of many in the international community. It is also high time that the Arabs rid themselves of the delusions they have long entertained. Such delusions have made them believe that "good conduct," "diplomatic action," and the "righteousness" of their cause are enough to get the international community to recover their usurped rights. All these elements require a basic factor—the power to affect the interests of others. Once this is attained, such factors, in their entirety, can make the Arab-Israeli conflict the international community's top priority.

To put it bluntly, the Arabs must build their intrinsic power quickly. They must convince the international community of their determination to pursue all options. They must keep to the road of lengthy struggle as the way to regain their usurped rights. In addition, others must be assured that the Arabs can influence their interests. Unless these things happen, no one will pay attention to the Arabs, and no one, the superpowers or anyone else, will have time to discuss the Arab cause.

Thus far, the outcome of the superpower summit seems disappointing as far as the central Arab cause is concerned. If the results of the summit are to serve any purpose, they should act as a warning bell loud enough to awaken the Arabs and prompt them to adopt the path of struggle, for it is the only way to recover their usurped rights and achieve true peace in the region.

Prince Hasan Receives Kuwaiti Finance Minister

JN101418 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 10 Dec 87

[Text] Amman—His Highness Crown Prince Hasan received Kuwaiti Finance Minister Jasim Muhammad al-Karafi at the Royal Hashemite Court this morning. During the meeting, they discussed the close relations between the two fraternal countries and ways to boost and promote them. His Highness Crown Prince Hasan told the visiting minister about Jordan's support for sisterly Kuwait in the face of today's challenges to its security and stability.

In addition, they reviewed Arab economic cooperation and the means to advance it. On this issue, his highness the crown prince referred to the efforts of the committee charged with evaluating the work of joint Arab economic action organizations affiliated with the Arab League. He affirmed the need for collective action to gear the work of these bodies toward the achievement of their objectives in the service of collective Arab interests.

The meeting was also attended by Tahir al-Masri, foreign minister; Dr Raja'i al-Mu'ahsir, minister of industry, trade, and supply; Dr Hanna 'Awdah, finance minister; Dr Tahir Kan'an, planning minister; and the Kuwaiti ambassador in Amman.

Al-Qasim Briefs Spanish King on Arab Summit

JN100848 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
0550 GMT 10 Dec 87

[Text] Madrid—His Majesty King Juan Carlos of Spain received a message from His Majesty King Husayn yesterday evening. The message was conveyed by Marwan al-Qasim, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court.

Al-Qasim spoke to a JNA correspondent after meeting with King Juan Carlos. In his statement, he noted that the message dealt with the outcome of last month's extraordinary Arab summit in Amman. The summit stressed the unity of Arab positions on essential issues and the dangers facing the Arab nation.

Al-Qasim added: The summit produced crucial and historic resolutions on the future of the Middle East. Moreover, the Arab leaders stressed that the Iraq-Iran war must stop, and that UN Resolution 598 must be fully implemented. The participants in the conference also announced their support for Kuwait and its actions to defend its sovereignty, people, and territory.

As for the Arab-Israeli conflict, Al-Qasim explained that the only solution that can bring about a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East is an international conference convened by the UN secretary general and attended by all parties involved in the dispute, as well as

the five permanent members of the UN Security Council. The forum should be based on international law and UN Security Council resolutions calling for Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories.

Al-Qasim added that the European countries approved of King Husayn's initiative and efforts to hold this conference. He highlighted Jordan's belief that Spain has a special role to play in the EC and in Latin America. He also noted that King Juan Carlos expressed his appreciation of King Husayn's initiative in relaying the results of the Amman summit to the Spanish Government. In addition, the Spanish monarch paid tribute to King Husayn's political wisdom, which played a great role in having the summit produce the results it did. The Spanish king also affirmed his full support for Jordan and King Husayn's efforts to hold an international conference to solve the conflict in the Middle East.

The meeting was also attended by Dr Muhammad 'Affash al-'Udwan, Jordanian ambassador in Madrid.

Returns to Amman

JN110848 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 11 Dec 87

[Text] Marwan al-Qasim, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, returned to Amman yesterday evening after an extensive tour of 10 African and European states. During his journey, he delivered messages from His Majesty King Husayn dealing with the positive outcome of the summit of reconciliation and accord.

Al-Qasim conveyed a royal message to Spain's King Juan Carlos on the results of the meeting, which highlighted the unity of Arab positions on the major issues and dangers facing our nation. Before visiting Spain, the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court stopped in Rabat. He met with His Majesty King Hassan II and delivered a similar message from His Majesty King Husayn. In the name of His Majesty King Husayn, he gave His Majesty King Hassan II an invitation to visit Jordan.

It is worth noting that Al-Qasim's tour began in Zambia, which currently chairs the OAU. He gave President Kenneth Kaunda a message from His Majesty King Husayn. Al-Qasim also went to Zimbabwe, chairman of the Nonaligned Movement. He delivered a royal message to [Nonaligned Movement] President Robert Mugabe. Afterward, he traveled to the Vatican, Italy, Britain, the Netherlands, Belgium, and France. He conveyed similar royal messages to the leaders of these countries.

AL-SHIRA' Says U.S. Hostage To Be Released

LD111542 Kuwait KUNA in English 1506 GMT 11 Dec 87

[Text] Beirut, Dec 11 (KUNA)—One of nine American citizens held hostage in Lebanon would be freed soon, as all demands of his captors have been met, a Lebanese weekly magazine reported Friday.

The unidentified hostage would be released mainly because of his failing health, said AL-SHIRA' magazine in a news-in-brief column and was quoting no sources.

The weekly would only say negotiations for the hostage's release had reached an advanced stage as all demands of the abductors were met. It gave no further details.

Israelis Intensify Action in South, Al-Biqa'

NC102027 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 10 Dec 87

[Text] Zionist gunboats are now cruising off the southern coast. Israeli helicopters have intensified their flights over the Al-Hamrah-al-Naqurah and Al-Hulah areas. Meanwhile, vehicles of the occupation forces were seen moving in the Al-Qantarah area at 2000 tonight. In addition, armored vehicles belonging to the enemy forces were seen entering the area between the Tayr Harfa triangle and Al-Shumariyah-'Alman.

Reports from the eastern sector and western Al-Biqa' speak about intensive movements by the enemy and its agents along the border. Reinforcements of both vehicles and personnel have been deployed inside the occupied border road in the areas of Hasbayya, Jazzin, and western Al-Biqa'.

Landing Operation Reported

NC110604 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 11 Dec 87

[Text] Reports from the south indicate that the nationalist and Palestinian positions are in a state of very high tension and alert amid reports of military reinforcements by the Israelis and the militias in the border zone, including Jazzin.

Israeli gunboats were reported to be cruising off the coast of Al-Naqurah and Al-Sarafand during the night. Some reports talked about an Israeli landing operation between the Al-Sarafand and 'Adlun areas, where a clash took place between Israelis and those manning nationalist posts in the area. In the fighting, a rubber boat was destroyed and another damaged. Flares were also fired in the area.

Officer Killed, Boat Sunk

NC110631 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0624 GMT 11 Dec 87

[Text] We have just been handed the following report from the newsdesk: Our correspondent reported a short while ago that a clash occurred early today involving a Palestinian rubber boat with four gunmen aboard and an Israeli gunboat at the mouth of the Litani River. According to the reports, an Israeli officer was killed and the Palestinian boat was sunk.

Islamic Resistance Makes Claim

NC111025 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 11 Dec 87

[Text] The Islamic resistance has issued a statement saying that one of its naval units carried out a new kind of attack on an Israeli frigate and boat off the Al-Sarafand-'Adlun coast last night. The statement added that the resistance fighters had attacked and destroyed the two Israeli naval vessels, using rockets and machineguns. According to the statement, 35 Israeli sailors were killed; none of the resistance fighters was killed or wounded. [Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic at 0915 GMT on 11 December in a similar report adds: "It should be recalled that this is the first time in 7 years that the Israeli Navy has suffered any casualties during operations off the Lebanese coast."]

Amal Claims Operation

NC111319 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 11 Dec 87

[Text] An official source in the Amal Movement has stated the following: At 2115 last night, Israeli gunboats attempted a landing operation on the coast at 'Adlun, while helicopter formations provided cover. The regular army of the Amal Movement confronted the gunboats and exchanged gunfire with them for 20 minutes, forcing them to withdraw. The Israeli enemy sustained losses, the extent of which is not known. Israeli helicopters continued to circle the area until this morning.

Israeli Maximum State of Alert

NC111505 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 11 Dec 87

[Text] According to security reports received from the south, the Israeli land, sea, and air forces are in a state of maximum alert following yesterday's operation against an Israeli gunboat off the southern coast. The reports say that Israeli commandos have advanced on the following axes: Jazzin, Kafr Hunah, Hasbayya, western Al-Biqa', Al-Bayyadah, and Al-Shamma'. This was accompanied by helicopter movements in support of these forces. The reports add that Israeli naval units have also been put on alert.

Warplanes Over Sidon, Camps

NC110956 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 11 Dec 87

[Text] Israeli warplanes have been conducting reconnaissance flights over Sidon and the Palestinian camps since this morning.

9 February Claims Attack on Pro-Syrian Center

NC101813 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 10 Dec 87

[Text] The 9 February Organization has claimed responsibility for detonating an explosive charge inside the pro-Syrian Arab party's center in the town of Al-Baddawi on the outskirts of Tripoli. The blast resulted in many casualties and property damage.

Group Claims Attack on Syrian Checkpoint

NC110643 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 11 Dec 87

[Text] The Liberation Battalion has announced that one of its groups used rockets and machineguns to attack a checkpoint manned by the Syrian occupation forces in the Al-Dinniyah area [in north Lebanon] at 2100 last night. A clash ensued, leaving a number of those manning the checkpoint either dead or wounded.

Group Claims Killing of Syrian Soldier

NC111714 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 11 Dec 87

[Text] The Lebanese Liberation Battalion has claimed responsibility for killing a Syrian occupation soldier at 1730 today at the joint Syrian-Internal Security Forces roadblock opposite the Bristol Hotel in Al-Hamra', West Beirut.

Syrians, Palestinians Arrested in Airport Case

NC111255 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 11 Dec 87

[Text] Security sources have told our radio that the Syrian authorities arrested an officer and four other members of the Syrian Army, eight Palestinian dissidents, and Palestinians belonging to 'Arafat's Fatah movement for their involvement in the explosion at Beirut International Airport on 11 November. According to the same reports, the Syrian Army personnel were paid 2 million Lebanese pounds to facilitate the entry of Thurayya Sahyun, who was carrying the briefcase containing explosives, into the airport. The operation was masterminded by a person named Abu al-Tayyib, who belongs to Fatah's Force 17, in collaboration with an influential Hizballah figure.

8 POW's in Iran Released; Arrive in Damascus

NC101927 Paris AFP in English 1916 GMT 10 Dec 87

[Text] Damascus, Dec 10 (AFP)—Eight Lebanese prisoners-of-war, who were freed Sunday by Iran have arrived in the Syrian capital, Iranian sources said here Thursday.

The Lebanese, who had been captured while fighting on the Iraqi side in the Gulf war, flew to Damascus aboard an Iran Air plane Wednesday, the sources said.

An Iranian diplomat was due to escort the eight men to Lebanon where they would be handed over to fundamentalist leader Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban, they added.

The eight were released following a request from Shaykh Sha'ban, the head of the Sunni fundamentalist Islamic Unification Movement which is based in the northern Lebanese port city of Tripoli.

Shaykh Sha'ban, contacted by AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, said the released men had "repented for their collaboration with the American enemy and now want to prove themselves by fighting against the Israeli enemy."

Al-Huss Returns to Beirut From Paris

NC101730 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 10 Dec 87

[Excerpt] Dr Salim al-Huss, acting prime minister and foreign minister, returned to Beirut at 1715 this evening at the conclusion of a 4-day working visit to Paris. [passage omitted]

Afghanistan

Foreign Ministry Summons Pakistani Charge

LD101752 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 10 Dec 87

[Text] The Pakistani charge d'affaires in Kabul was summoned to the Foreign Ministry and the following protest note was given to him by the First Political Directorate:

According to reports received by security sources, the firing of heavy arms from Pakistani territory against Afghan security outposts is continuing. Despite repeated protests by the Republic of Afghanistan, the Pakistani Government is not taking any steps to stop them.

On 7 December, one person was martyred and another was wounded as a result of heavy arms and surface-to-surface rockets fired in the areas of Lowyah Dakkah, Pachir, Agam, and Achin.

The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan strongly protests the attacks by the Pakistani Armed Forces and demands that the Pakistani authorities stop such irresponsible actions which contribute to intensifying the situation. If no action is taken, the responsibility for the dangerous consequences of these actions will rest with the Pakistani authorities.

Islamic Resistance Condems Summit Agreement

LD102146 Tehran IRNA in English 1900 GMT 10 Dec 87

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 1, IRNA—Spokesman for the Afghan Islamic Coalition Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Mohaqqeq Afshar condemned Thursday any agreement reached at the superpower summit on the fate of Afghanistan.

Hoj. Afshar said the probable East-West detente on Afghanistan is aimed at safeguarding U.S. interests in this oppressed Muslim country and guaranteeing a face-saving withdrawal for the occupying Soviet forces, and in the process confirming formality to the forcibly installed Kabul regime.

Reiterating that the immediate unconditional pull-out of Soviet troops is the only solution to the Afghan issue, Afshar termed U.S. President Ronald Reagan's pretensions of sympathy for the Afghan Muslim nation as "deceptive". Afghan Muslims will turn down U.S. overtures as they rejected Gorbachev and the Red Army, he added.

He stressed that the Afghan nation wants nothing short of an Islamic government on the basis of the holy Koran and the teachings of prophet Muhammad (SAW).

Afshar also called on the Afghan mujahidin to accelerate their attacks and urged Afghan refugees to rally behind them.

PDRY Official, Wakil Discuss Bilateral Ties

LD101625 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 8 Dec 87

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Abdul Wakil met with 'Umar 'Ali, member of the YSP Central Committee and secretary of the YSP Secretariat, in his office this morning. The two discussed bilateral relations and cooperation.

Cooperation Protocol Signed

LD111404 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0416 GMT 11 Dec 87

[Text] Kabul, December 10, BAKHTAR—Protocol of mutual cooperation between the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, PDPA, and Socialist Party of Yemen, YSP, was concluded here on Tuesday.

The protocol was signed by Sayyed Nasratullah, in charge of Liaison and Documents Department of the Central Committee of the PDPA and Shafar 'Umar 'Ali, member of the Central Committee and secretary of the Secretariat Office of the Yemen Socialist Party.

'Abdul Wakil, minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan also meet Shafar 'Umar 'Ali.

During the meeting, matters on the expansion of relations and mutual cooperation between the two countries were discussed.

Farid Ahmad Mazdak, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Democratic Youth Organisation of Afghanistan and Abdul Rahim Hafif, chairman of the Central Council of the National Front of the Republic of Afghanistan had also separate meetings with the delegation of YSP.

The delegation of the Yemen Socialist Party Central Committee is currently paying an official visit to the Republic of Afghanistan at the invitation of the PDPA CC.

33 Prisoners Released Under Amnesty 10 Dec

LD102152 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 10 Dec 87

[Text] On the basis of the Presidential Amnesty Decree dated 30 November 1987, 33 prisoners were released today from the jails in Takhar and Samangan Provinces.

According to a report by a BIA military correspondent, during the meetings held on this occasion in those provinces, two released prisoners stated that as the remaining terms of their prison have been remitted by the Presidential Decree they will now work to ensure peace.

Politburo Discusses Coalition Rule in Regions

LD102348 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 10 Dec 87

[Text] A session of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo was held today. The Politburo discussed the creation of an administrative coalition in the regions and pointed out that the national reconciliation policy has prepared vast opportunities for the successful expansion and consolidation of state power and the holding of elections to local state power and administration.

The election to local bodies and the inclusion of a large number of former opposition groups, and the election of more than 76 percent of nonparty people in the structure of the councils and executive committees, have created a further basis for the strengthening and creation of coalition rule in the regions.

This process accelerates the basis for the creation of the nucleus of a coalition government in practice. The signing of protocols with armed groups for a cease-fire in the regions, the liberation of villages by peaceful means, and the appointment of nonparty governers in many provinces have increased the trust of people in the people's government and have resulted in ensuring peace and security in the regions.

The Politburo assessed the work of some party committees and state bodies in this direction as too weak and appointed a commission to assess and organize the tasks related to the creation of a coalition administration in the regions.

The PDPA Central Committee Politburo assessed the training, education activities, and living conditions of children in establishments of the Watan orphanage. It gave specific tasks to the relevant authorities concerning the further improvement of the children's living conditions and their training and education in those establishments.

The Politburo also assessed the activities of the Kabul party provincial committee concerning progress of political propaganda work in the regions. It pointed out that despite the useful experiences and specific gains, serious weaknesses and shortcomings exist in the work of the Kabul party provincial committee. The executive bureau of the party provincial committee has not yet used the resources of the various bodies in this regard effectively and correctly. The national reconciliation commissions and peace jirgas have not been used with sufficient force. The people and resources in the region under state power have not been used by the party provincial committee to bring influence to bear in the regions.

The Politburo entrusted specific duties to the party committees and organizations and instructed that all party and social organizations and state bodies should concentrate their work on the acceleration of political propaganda work in the interest of people's power by peaceful means.

The PDPA Central Committee Politburo heard a report by Comrade 'Abdul Wakil, minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan, on the official friendly visit by an Afghan delegation to the GDR, and assessed its results as positive.

The PDPA Central Committee Politburo also discussed a number of domestic and international issues.

Bangladesh

Opposition Leaders Comment Following Release

BK110830 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 11 Dec 87

[Text] As already reported, the two leaders of the opposition alliances have been released.

After her release, the president of Awami League and leader of eight-party alliance, Sheikh Hasina Wajed, told journalists that elections will have to be held under such an interim government that can ensure free and fair election acceptable to all political parties. She, however, said the future course of events will mainly determine whether her party will take part in the election.

The BNP chairman and leader of the seven-party alliance, Begum Khaleda Zia, told journalists that her alliance will remain active in continuing the combined efforts of the opposition to establish democracy in the country. She said as a democratic party, BNP is always demanding elections under a neutral caretaker government.

Government To Relax Restrictions on Media

BK110857 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 11 Dec 87

[Text] Information Minister Anwar Zahid has said the government has decided to gradually relax recent restrictions imposed on the media following proclamation of emergency in keeping with the assurance of President Ershad.

The minister, who met the editors and newspapers and news agencies in Dhaka yesterday evening, said government actions, including the release of political leaders, are aimed only at creating a congenial atmosphere for dialogue with the opposition leaders. He expressed the hope that the gesture shown by the president will be appreciated by all concerned and they will take advantage of it so that the country could come out of the present uneasy situation. He said that only a political dialogue leading to elections could help the nation return to a normal democratic atmosphere.

Mr Zahid also expressed the confidence that President Ershad's initiative will create the necessary conditions for holding dialogue as no one, including the opposition leaders, wants violence and uncertainty.

Information Secretary Nurul Nabi Chowdhury was also present.

Curfew Reimposed in Urban Areas 10 Dec

BK101605 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 10 Dec 87

[Text] The curfew will be reimposed in Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna, Rajshahi, and Narayanganj at 2300 tonight and will continue until 0500 tomorrow morning. There will be no curfew from 0500 tomorrow morning to 2300 tomorrow night in these places. The curfew will, however, be reimposed from 2300 tomorrow night and will continue until 0500 on Saturday morning.

The industrial areas of Demrz, Adamji, Fatullah, and (Faujdar Hat) will, however, remain outside the purview of curfew.

India

Gandhi Rules Out Any Mid-Term Election

BK111003 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 11 Dec 87

[Text] The prime minister has announced that there will be no mid-term poll. Replying to the debate on a no confidence motion against his government in the Lok Sabha a short while ago, Mr Rajiv Gandhi said people have elected us for 5 years and we will remain in government for 5 years. He asserted that the Congress-I still maintains the same ratio of popularity that it had 3 years ago. He pointed out that out of 19 by-elections held to the Lok Sabha so far, his party has bagged as many as 13.

Amidst thumping of tables by the ruling party members, he declared: My government does not get uncomfortable by agitations, campaigns, marches, or rallies. If it is only a question of holding a rally, his party could hold much bigger ones. He thanked the opposition members for raising the debate of no confidence, saying by this they have only displayed a total bankruptcy of thinking of ideas and, above all, a vision. Details of the prime minister's reply are coming in.

Earlier, intervening in the discussion, the human resources minister, Mr P.V. Narashima Rao, asserted that there has been no deviation from the basic policies laid down by Jawaharlal Nehru and (?followed) by Lal Bahadur Shastri and Indira Gandhi. He, however, said there has been variations in the strategies adopted by different prime ministers, including Mr Rajiv Gandhi. He pointed out that when Mr Rajiv Gandhi was made prime minister after the sudden assassination of Indira Gandhi, the country gave itself a new generation of leadership. Mr Rao explained in detail to assert that Mr Rajiv Gandhi showed boldness and audacity in solving the problems of Punjab, Assam, and Mizoram.

During the hour-long hard hitting speech, Mr Rao demolished the opposition's arguments against the policies of the government. He said in foreign policy India gave a concrete shape to the struggle against the apartheid regime of South Africa by launching the AFRICA [Aid for Resisting Invasion, Colonialsim, and Apartheid] Fund along with other countries. He also referred to the initiation taken by the Rajiv Gandhi government toward nuclear disarmament, and India can take pride of having contributed toward the signing of the INF treaty by the two superpowers. Mr Rao defended computerization of the new education policy.

Home Minister on Punjab, Gurkha, Tripura Issues

BK101642 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 10 Dec 87

[Text] The home minister, Mr Buta Singh, has said that large-scale involvement of people has produced encouraging results in the fight against terrorism in Punjab. Addressing a meeting of the consultative committee of his ministry in New Delhi today, Mr Buta Singh said more and more people are now coming forward to cooperate with the state administration. He informed the members that 2,380 suspected terrorists have been apprehended during the president's rule in the state and 212 terrorists were killed in encounters with the police till the 15th of last month. The minister said that the terrorists are still getting support from the gurdwaras [Sikh temples]. He said the government is committed to review the cases of the Jodhpur under trial.

Members of the committee, who participated in the discussion, urged the government to find a political solution to the Punjab problem.

Regarding the Darjeeling hill area problem, the home minister said there is no difference of approach between the Center and the West Bengal Government. He said talks will continue with the state chief minister, Mr Jyoti Basu, and the GNLF [Gurkha National Liberation Front] leader, Subhash Ghisingh.

The home minister expressed concern over the continuing violence by TNV [Tripura National Volunteer] extremists in Tripura. He said the government has not been using the power under special laws to deal with the extremists.

Referring to the controversy concerning Babri Masjid Ram Janma Bhumi [shrine over which both Hindus and Muslims claim rights], the home minister said he is hopeful of finding a solution soon that is acceptable to all parties.

USSR Assists in Oil Exploration Work

BK110809 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 11 Dec 87

[Text] India and the Soviet Union have decided to expedite the intensive oil exploration work in the Cambay and Kaveri basins. The fifth meeting of the Indo-Soviet working group on oil industry being held in New

Delhi also discussed the time schedule for the commencement of work by Soviet experts in the Bengal basin. Operations are expected to commence in the second half of next year. The Soviet Union is one of the major collaborators with India in oil exploration work.

Commentary on Importance of INF Treaty

BK101313 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 10 Dec 87

[Commentary by C. Rajamohan of the Institute for Defense Studies and Analysis: "New Hopes for Peace"]

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has welcomed the Intermediate Range Nuclear Force—INF—treaty signed by President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev, describing it as a triumph of reason. The Union Parliament joined him in congratulating the two leaders.

The treaty, product of 6 years of torturous negotiations, was formally signed at the Washington summit on Tuesday. There is worldwide hope that this sapling would grow into a mighty tree of peace. The epoch-making agreement of the INF seeks to eliminate all land based nuclear missiles having a range between 500 and 5,500 kilometers. The historic significance of this treaty rests on the fact that it is the world's first nuclear arms reduction agreement. It will lead to the scrapping of about 1,500 nuclear warheads on the Soviet side and about 400 on the American. The tragic history of nuclear arms control until now has given us agreements which legitimized quantitative and qualitative proliferation of nuclear arsenal. The INF treaty is, thus, a radical departure from the past practice of pursuing the nuclear arms race through negotiations.

It is indeed the first time that the United States and the Soviet Union have agreed to eliminate an entire class of nuclear weapons. In the past only obsolescent weapons have been removed. The INF treaty would lead to the dumping of some of the most modern nuclear weapon systems, like the Soviet SS-20 and American Pershing-2 missiles. The treaty has also broken new ground on the vexing question of verification. By introducing extremely intrusive on-site inspections, the treaty has overcome the verification hurdle, which had so often in the past complicated the arms limitation process. The mind-boggling verification procedures to be implemented under the INF treaty, include a provision for continuous inspection of certain missile production facilities in the United States and the Soviet Union for 13 years. Verification is also to be extended to third countries where American or Soviet INF are at present deployed. The INF accord also marks a new era of openness in nuclear negotiations. Under the agreement an unprecedented range of information on weapon systems and their deployment has been exchanged.

Skeptics had pointed out that the treaty affects only about 4 percent of the nuclear arsenals of the United States and the Soviet Union. But the political significance of the INF accord goes far beyond the issue of numbers. By providing the world with the much needed conceptual breakthrough in thinking about nuclear arms limitation, the INF treaty opens up enormous new possibilities for disarmament. By legitimizing zero as the final goal of nuclear arms reduction, the INF treaty forms an extremely valuable first step in the long struggle for a nuclear free world.

The Soviet-American agreement on INF could also mark the first step toward ending the recent second cold war which has poisoned international politics for nearly a decade. The agreement would not only deescalate Soviet-American tension, but also set the tone for progress in a variety of arms limitation issues. It is expected that a treaty on reducing longer range arsenals by a half would be ready for signature in mid-1988 when President Reagan is scheduled to visit Moscow. Even on the SDI issue the two sides are groping for a compromise. The INF treaty has already triggered off a new process for the overall reduction and lowering of East-West military confrontation in Europe.

India in particular has reasons to be pleased with the INF treaty. Throughout the nuclear age, India has championed the disarmament approach in a radical opposition to the philosophy of nuclear arms control. The arms control approach followed by the nuclear powers institutionalized the nuclear arms race threatening the very survival of life on earth. The INF treaty is the vindication of the disarmament approach. This approach has also been the central element of the Delhi Declaration issued in November 1986 by Rajiv Gandhi and Mikhail Gorbachev. The declaration gave the call for the replacement of nuclear balance of terror with comprehensive international security. The historic opportunity provided by the INF treaty must now be fully used to realize the goal of a nuclear free and nonviolent world.

Iran

Khamene'i Delivers Friday Prayers Sermon

LD111301 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 11 Dec 87

[Text] We begin the news report of this hour with remarks by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i at the Friday prayer ceremonies today in Tehran.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, the president, spoke of the unprecedented popular acclaim for the nationwide maneuvers, as well as support for the dispatch of forces to the battlefront and the Supreme War Support Council's 10-point statement. He said:

The widespread welcome and excitement indicates that on the eighth anniversary of the war and the 9th year of its victory, the Islamic Revolution still can powerfully motivate the people. This great revolution has amazed the peoples of the world. As to the financial holy war, public acclaim is truly beyond expectations. In this regard, however, we address ourselves to the wealthy. They must spend part of their income for the interests of all.

Mr Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i talked about the meeting of the leaders of the two superpowers in the United States. He stated: The leaders of the East and West blocs spoke at length on three topics: intermediate nuclear missiles, human rights, and regional trouble spots throughout the world, including the Iran-Iraq war and the Persian Gulf.

Affirming that the Islamic Republic of Iran endorses the ending of nuclear weapons production, the Supreme Defense Council chairman said that if the two superpowers are telling the truth and if they remove some of these destructive weapons, it will benefit humanity. However, he emphasized: We doubt if they have acted sincerely and if they are telling the truth. After any previous negotiations these two superpowers have held on nuclear weapons, they have proceeded to produce more complex, more lethal weapons. Production of nuclear weapons by the superpowers is a crime against and a threat to all humanity.

On the second topic of the U.S.-USSR negotiations, the problem of human rights, the president said: This is ridiculous, a joke, that Mr Reagan has now become a teacher of human rights in these negotiations and that he demands universal observance of human rights. Mr Reagan—who attacked the "Iran-Ajr," and subjected its crew to assault, murder, and plunder—claims to be a defender of human rights, despite these shameful activities in the Persian Gulf. This is grotesque. It clearly shows the audacity of the ringleaders of global arrogance.

The Supreme Defense Council chairman then referred to the issue of the imposed war, which was the axis of the negotiations between the heads of state of the United States and the Soviet Union. Addressing them, he said: Are you discussing the point as two foreign observers or in your capacity as two superpowers who believe you have interests in this area and have the right to interfere?

If they believe they have interests there, then why do they call it a regional crisis? This is not a regional crisis; it is international, so much so that all the tensions, war, and bloodshed are created by international powers.

Stressing the fact that if it were not for the encouragement and support of the superpowers, Saddam would not have dared to start the war, the Supreme Defense Council chairman asserted: The U.S. and Soviet spokesmen said that one aim of the negotiations was to find a way to stop the war as quickly as possible. If they were truly interested in ending the war, then they would not continue to help the aggressor. They encouraged him to commit aggression. Moreover, whenever they feel he is impotent, they give him money and encouragement to continue the war.

The Supreme Defense Council chairman stressed: The only way to stop the war is to suppress, punish, and confront the aggressor and to support the Islamic Republic of Iran—the victim of the aggression.

Mr Khamene'i emphasized: They lack the courage to admit this fact because they are opposed to Islam. However, if they lack the courage and preparedness to stand by the victim of the aggression, at least they must not help the aggressor; they must not fan the flames of war.

Referring to the 1974 UN General Assembly resolution—which says that military aggression is the worst kind of aggression and that helping the aggressor in any way is complicity in this aggression—the Supreme Defense Council chairman stated: At present, on the basis of this decree, whoever helps Iraq, according to the UN resolution, is an accomplice of Iraq and therefore is liable to the same verdict that applies to Iraq.

They pretend the sales of weapons to Iran has an antipolitical value [as heard] in the world. And yet they have made themselves accomplices in this war by selling weapons to Iraq. In whose interests do they intend to end the war? If they knew that the continuation of this conflict was detrimental to Iran, they would have demanded that the war continue. However, they know that the war's continuation undermines Iraqi interests.

In conclusion, the president warned the heads of state of the United States and the Soviet Union: We will not sit and wait for you to support the Islamic Republic of Iran. We will rely on God and on the unity and solidarity of this nation, as seen in the maneuvers and dispatches. We will punish and suppress the aggressor by ourselves with our own hands.

Tehran Comments on INF Treaty Ratification

LD102343 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 10 Dec 87

[Excerpts] In the course of a dramatic show that was (?caught) the other day in the southern lawn of the White House, Ronald Reagan, the aged actor of Holywood, and Mikhail Gorbachev, the new and controversial figure of the Kremlin, concluded the intermediate-range missile treaty between America and the Soviet Union. Both these individuals described this event as a major, historical event. Reagan noted that despite the fact that the United States and the Soviet Union have differences on vital issues, this treaty shows that the parties could reach an agreement when they decide to do so. [passage omitted]

In the opinion of military experts, negotiations in this regard are very immature because until the time the just concluded treaty is enforced, discussions concerning the dismantling of a [words indistinct] strategic weapons will be an act remote from common sense. Undoubtedly, there is much to be (?traversed) until the treaty on dismantling all intermediate-range missiles is enforced. Aside from anything else, this treaty has to be approved by the U.S. Senate. As well as can be discerned from [word indistinct] reports many congressmen and (?members) of the Senate do not favor such a treaty; they will most probably vote against it. These senators who represent America's rightist conservatives basically do not believe in signing an arms control treaty with the Soviet Union because they believe that the Soviet Union, in this undertaking, is unreliable.

Already it has become evident that the reason for Weinberger's resignation as America's secretary of defense was his disagreement over dismantling intermediate-range weapons and over signing a treaty with the Soviet Union. In the opinion of these international observers, the appointment of Carlucci as the U.S. defense secretary was based on his ability to convince the American Senate to agree with the treaty on dismantling intermediate-range missiles.

In the event this treaty is not approved by the U.S. Senate [words indistinct]. However, even if this treaty is passed by the Senate, it will only cover 3 percent of the total nuclear weapons. The two superpowers will still retain 97 percent of their nuclear weapons' capacity, by which they can completely annihilate and destroy the world's population any time they want. To the extent it relates to arms control, the purpose of the two superpowers in signing this treaty has not been disarmament. The sense of this issue, whether partial or total, is in the sense of (?disposition) of power for the superpowers and this conflicts with their behavior and global objectives on the international scene. [passage omitted] Even if these superpowers have good (?faith) on the [words indistinct] of intermediate-range weapons and that such treaty is implemented without any obstacles and problems, this will still not be instrumental in the superpowers [word indistinct] in the expansion and production of other weapons possessed by them.

In the opinion of experts well-versed in international issues, the banning of intermediate-range missiles will boost the capacity of the superpowers to engage in producing nonnuclear weapons and equipment. It is quite possible that in the future we may witness the emergence of laser equipped tanks or nonnuclear radiation weapons.

Further Details on Khomeyni's New Will

LD102334 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 10 Dec 87

[Text] We now draw your attention to a full report on the visit [to Imam Khomeyni] and the remarks of Ayatollah Meshkini, the president of the Assembly of Experts, on this occasion.

[Begin recording] [Khomeyni] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The main reason I imposed on you gentlemen to come here was this politico-divine will and testament of mine. One copy must go to the Majlis and the other to Khorasan, to the holy shrine [of Imam Reza, the eighth infallible imam of the Shi'ites]. I ask you gentlemen to please appoint a person or persons to take this to the Majlis and others to take it—one of those [words indistinct] gentlemen—to Mashhad. You appoint one, two, or three persons to accompany it.

[Unidentified speaker] Should I decide who?

[Khomeyni] It does not matter who decides, the gentlemen should do it.

[Second unidentified speaker] When they get there, should they bring back your previous will?

[Khomeyni] Yes, they will have to do that. They will put this one there and bring back the one we previously sent there.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] There is another will at the Council of Experts; it is in its safe. This was also delivered there at the time.

[Khomeyni] It is the same now. It is just like it was then. Now they have to replace it with this one.

[Third unidentified speaker] Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani himself is in the Majlis and should...

[Fourth unidentified speaker, interrupting] Yes, as far as the Majlis is concerned. However, Khorasan is another matter.

[Khomeyni] You decide about Khorasan and send them.

[First speaker] We have to have two to go to Khorasan [words indistinct].

[Khomeyni] This was one aspect, the other aspect being...

[Third speaker, interrupting] Mr Meshkini from the Council of Experts is also available.

[Khomeyni] Yes, it will be given to his excellancy.

[Third speaker] As the two Majlis deputies are here together, then you and Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani decide (?here).

[Khomeyni] Yes, and decide on someone for Mashhad.

[Second speaker] This will should be sealed and it is not.

[Fourth speaker] We have sealed it with wax.

[Khomeyni] That is the way it should be.

[Fourth speaker] We have sealed it with wax and put it inside that.

[Second speaker] It has not been sealed. The seal on the first one is done in a way that it cannot be opened. If anyone opens and reseals the other one it will definitely show.

[Khomeyni] Well, this is the same.

[Second speaker] Yes, it is sealed that way but the official way of sealing it is to seal it in the presence of a group. Should it be sealed in the presence of this company with the necessary ceremonies or should we seal it ourselves?

[Khomeyni] I will select a number of gentlemen and they will go and seal it. We wish to have a number of gentlemen to be there, including one of these gentlemen.

[Fourth speaker] There is Mr Safi from the Council of Experts.

[Khomeyni] Yes, Mr Safi is here.

[Fourth speaker] Yes, there is Meshkini, Safi, and Hashemi-Rafsanjani from the Majlis.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] If his excellency agrees, we should not disperse; we should go to Majlis or to another place all together, and call the master of the seals and have him seal it in front of the assembled company and...

[Khomeyni, interrupting] Yes, this is very good.

[Fourth speaker] What if they cannot stay?

[Khomeyni] Well, it does not matter in cases such as yours if you cannot stay. The rest of them are present. In the presence of the gentlemen, Mr Safi and others, Mr Meshkini, this will be done and will be taken care of. This one will also be sealed, the one that must go to Mashhad. You select two or three people and we will send them to Mashhad.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Is this to be delivered to...

[Khomeyni, interrupting] To the holy shrine.

[Fourth speaker] What about the one that is there?

[Khomeyni] What?

[Fourth speaker] The one that is there.

[Khomeyni] That one should be brought back. The one that is there should [words indistinct].

[Khomeyni] They should bring that one; they should leave this one [the new will] and bring back that one [words indistinct].

[Khomeyni] May God's peace and benediction be upon you. [end recording]

[Begin Meshkini recording] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Thanks be to God and to His messenger and His scion, and cursed be all the satans. Today marks the anniversary of the political will and testament of his eminence the imam of the ummah, may God continue his shadow over us.

On this occasion he invited a number of people, who are now in his presence, to his noble house. He has made a revision to the will and testament which he had drawn up 5 years ago. It is natural that when 5 years pass, a political will and testament be revised based on changes in the times, changes in the atmosphere, changes in the politics of the times.

His revision after 5 years is a sign of the greatness of his spirit and his deep political insight; that is, a revision has become necessary after 5 years. We do not know how much he has revised it. In any case, anyone else would have felt it necessary to revise their political will and testament monthly or weekly. At any rate, he has demanded back the will and testament which he deposited at the Assembly of Experts 5 years ago, handed over by his honorable son. It was decided that that will and testament be returned to him and replaced by the amended will and testament, on which he has written "my politico-divine will and testament" and duly signed.

There are two copies: One copy will again go to the Assembly of Experts, to remain there; and the other copy must be sent to sacred Mashhad, to remain there.

These honorable brothers and great civil personalities now here, of course, in the presence of His Excellency Ayatollah Montazeri, who was also present here, witnessed the ceremonies. He gave this will and testament to be deposited in the Majlis, God willing. We hope that, God willing, several other 5-year periods will pass and he will make similar revisions every 5 years and that the process continues until his holiness [referring to the 12th imam, or hidden imam, of the Shi'ites] reappears.

O God, keep his sacred, blessed, and beneficial presence long among us. It is life which bring blessings to all the world's oppressed and Muslims. O God, make his great Islamic aspirations, which are greater than we can imagine, be implemented in the world of Islam. O God, make our fighters victorious. O God, return our missing and prisoners of war safely to us. O God, give long life and the opportunity to serve Islam to all the authorities of this country, the brothers here and other servants of this country. Peace be on Mohammad and his scion. [Koranic verse] [end recording]

Will Delivered to Holy Shrine

LD101745 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 10 Dec 87

[Text] A copy of the politico-divine will of the imam of the ummah has been transferred to Mashhad and delivered to the holy shrine of Imam Reza. The Central News Unit reports that the will of the imam of the ummah was taken to Mashhad at 1900 by Hojjat ol-Eslam Mahdavi-Kani, Safi, Tavassoli and Karrubi.

After a ceremony attended by members of the Board of Trustees of the Holy Shrine of Imam Reza and of its library, the will was delivered to Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Va'ezi Ta'asi, representative of the imam in Khorasan Province and keeper of the holy shrine of Imam Reza. It will be kept in the safe of the holy shrine.

The former will of the imam of the ummah was given to Ayatollah Mahdavi-Kani in order that it may be returned to Imam Khomeyni.

WIH Threatens Retaliation Against Iraq

LD101721 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 10 Dec 87

[Text] The WIH has issued the following statement: In retaliation for the attacks made yesterday and today by the Zionist enemy against Iranian residential and civilian areas, the fighters of Islam will attack the enemy's economic and military installations.

In this statement, the WIH calls on the Iraqi people to evacuate areas near economic and military installations in Iraqi cities so that they will not be harmed during the raids by the fighters of Islam on these installations. In conclusion, the statement stresses: If the Iraqi regime continues its wicked deeds, the preventive operations of the fighters of Islam will take on wider dimensions.

Combat Operations Against Iraq Continue

Communique No 3,046

LD101724 Tehran IRNA in English 1653 GMT 10 Dec 87

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 10, IRNA—Muslim combatants of Iran killed and wounded 20 Iraqi troops in northwestern fronts, destroying some light and heavy gun emplacements of theirs, said a military communique here Thursday.

Communique Number 3046 of the Joint Staff Command added that the Iranian combatants subjected Iraqi armoured units to their heavy artillery fire in Halaleh, Panjwin, Sumar, Western Jofeyr, Hoseyniyeh, and eastern Basra. Enemy forces sustained considerable damage and their tank fire was silenced.

Movements of Iraqi supply columns and personnel-carriers were checked and shelled by the Muslim forces in Mehran, Badrah, Zurbatiyah, Yebis and northern Hur, where enemy colums sustained considerable damage.

Engineering activities of Ba'thist forces were brought to a halt in Nahr 'Anbar operational region.

The Iranian Muslim combatants continued consolidation of their defence positions, dispatched patrol units to check enemy activities and shelled Iraqi positions and fortifications throughout the fronts. In each operational region, some Iraqi forces were killed and wounded and parts of their positions and defence lines were set ablaze.

Iran's Gendarmerie forces killed and wounded some Iraqi soldiers in southern fronts, setting afire gun emplacements and observation posts of theirs.

In the southern waters, Iranian planes continued their reconnaissance flights over the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman in order to monitor the situation of foreign vessels. Iranian pilots, despite warnings from foreign patrol planes, dauntlessly continued their mission according to international regulations, concluded the Communique.

Iraq Bombs Non-Military Unit

LD101822 Tehran IRNA in English 1734 GMT 10 Dec 87

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 10, IRNA—Iraqi warplanes violated airspace of Bakhtaran Province at 13:50 hours local time (10:20 GMT) Thursday and bombed a non-military unit.

The air raid inflicted damage to several houses in this western border province.

Also today, Iraqi warplanes bombarded a non-military region in Khuzestan Province causing some casualties and damage.

Pakistan

U.S. Urged To Halt Arms Supply to Mujahidin

BK101147 Rawalpindi HAIDER in Urdu 1 Dec 87 p 3

[Editorial:"The Afghanistan Issue and the Pakistani President's Latest Proposal"]

[Text] In a special interview with the SUNDAY TELEGRAPH, the Pakistani president, General Mohammad Ziaul Haq, has again proposed that a United Nations peacekeeping force be deployed in Afghanistan for the withdrawal of Soviet forces from that country.

He said the presence of an international [force] there is most essential to make the total withdrawal of the Soviet forces a reality. The president also made a proposal to set

up an interim government in Kabul before the elections, giving equal representation to Afghan freedom lovers, movements of Afghan refugees, and the present Communists rulers. He expressed his opinion that an agreement will be reached on the withdrawal of Soviet forces within a period of 9 or 10 months. The proposal made by the Pakistani president for the deployment of a UN peacekeeping force in Afghanistan is not new. Earlier, on more than one occasion, the prime minister of Pakistan had also suggested that after the withdrawal of the Soviet forces from Afghanistan, a UN peacekeeping force be deployed there to make its nonaligned status a reality and to protect it from foreign intervention. However, so far there has been no positive response from the Soviet Union or Afghanistan on the proposal cited above. As far as the Pakistani president's latest proposal—that the present Communist government in Afghanistan, Afghan freedom lovers, and Afghan refugees be given equal representation in the interim government to be formed after the withdrawal of Soviet forces—is concerned, this proposal should be discussed in order to make it acceptable by all the parties involved.

The leader of the present government in Afghanistan, Dr Najibullah, has said several times that he is ready for the opposition parties to participate in the government in order to realize the objective of national reconciliation and understanding. In our opinion, regarding the reported proposal of the Pakistani president, if efforts are made to have an understanding before the Geneva talks, there is no reason for all the parties concerned not to accept it. However, it should be clearly stated that the Afghan rebels and Afghan refugees should not be considered separate or different from each other. In principle, they hold the same point of view. Therefore, there is no justification to demand a separate share in power for both of them in any interim government. The talks for giving equal representation in the interim government to dominant organizations of the Afghan rebels and the present Afghan Government may definitely prove fruitful. However, there is no justification for treating the Afghan refugees separately. There is no separate status for them.

It is gratifying that the Soviet Union and the Government of Afghanistan have been continuously exhibiting a positive attitude toward solving the Afghanistan problem and both governments have become considerably more flexible than before. However, this issue cannot be solved unilaterally. In this respect, the United States should also display seriousness and positive thinking in its attitude and revise its policy of arming the Afghan rebels. The talks can be successful only when the flow of sophisticated weapons to the anti-Afghan elements is halted. We feel that the ball is now in America's court. If it desires, it can create some hope of solving the issue by halting the supply of dollars and weapons to the anti-Afghan elements. On the other hand, it can make the possibilities of success [in solving the issue] doubtful by continuing the supply of dollars and weapons. It is obligatory on the part of the international community under the present circumstances to make the United States also realize its responsibility toward the world.

Statement Reaffirms Cooperation With India

BK101628 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 10 Dec 87

[Text] Pakistan and India have reaffirmed their objective of expanding trade and economic cooperation.

The two countries have also reaffirmed their commitment to the principles of GATT and agreed upon measures to ensure a balanced trade. This has been stated in a joint statement issued in New Delhi today at the conclusion of Indo-Pakistan secretaries level talks on expansion of trade and economic cooperation.

GDR Deputy Foreign Minister, Officials Meet

BK091717 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 9 Dec 87

[Text] The German Democratic Republic deputy foreign minister, who is on an official visit to Pakistan, held talks with the Pakistani authorities in Islamabad today. During this meeting, views were exchanged on matters of cooperation in the fields of trade, economics, and culture.

Iran's Velayati Meets With Noorani 10 Dec

BK101613 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 10 Dec 87

[Text] The Iranian foreign minister, Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, met with the minister of state for foreign affairs, Zain Noorani, in Islamabad today. They exchanged views on matters of mutual interest.

Earlier, on his arrival at the Islamabad airport for a 2-day visit to Pakistan, the Iranian foreign minister said the bilateral relations between Pakistan and Iran have been strengthened in the past few years. Both countries are promoting relations and cooperation betwen them in various fields, which will benefit the region.

The deputy foreign minister of the German Democratic Republic, Dr H.D. Winter, also met with the minister of state for foreign affairs in Islamabad and exchanged views on matters of mutual interest. The minister of state for foreign affairs apprised him of the current situation in Afghanistan.

Sri Lanka

Jayewardene Receives Gandhi Message

BK091605 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 9 Dec 87

[Text] The Indian high commissioner in Sri Lanka, Mr J.N. Dixit, called on the Sri Lankan president, Mr Jayewardene, in Colombo this morning. During his hour long meeting, Mr Dixit conveyed to Mr Jayewardene a message from the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi.

An Indian High Commission spokesman told our Colombo correspondent, Plabon Majumder, that the message contained the Indian suggestion that both New Delhi and Colombo should now take steps to return the refugees to Sri Lanka and to implement the constitutional process for the devolution of powers, including preparation for elections. The president expressed his full support for these suggestions and agreed with the prime minister that implementation of the various provisions of the agreement should be followed through as purposefully and expeditiously as possible.

IPKF Seizes Weapons Supply in Chavakachcheri

BK101429 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1357 GMT 10 Dec 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Dec 10 (LANKA PUWATH)—The Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) yesterday raided the LTTE's arms and explosives manufacturing leader "Arulraj's" house at Chavakachcheri, captured him and seized a large haul of arms, ammunition, explosives and other logistics, an Indian High Commission spokesperson told LANKA PUWATH.

She said that the Indian troops also captured 31 LTTE terrorists including five hard core terrorists.

The IPKF seized 6,100 rounds of ammunition, 499 grenades, 340 caskets for laying claymore mines, 63 hand grenades, 63 mortar bombs, large number of detonators, cords, explosives, fuses and rifles from Arulraj's house in Chavakachcheri.

In another encounter at Kokkuvil, Kondavil yesterday, the IPKF killed the LTTE area leader "Bharath" in Kokkuvil and two other LTTE terrorists.

Three LTTE terrorists were also wounded.

In the firefight three Indian soldiers including a junior commissioned officer were also killed.

IPKF Recovers LTTE Weapons in Jaffna Area

BK100345 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 10 Dec 87

[Text] In Sri Lanka, the Chunnakam power station has been linked with Jaffna power grid for the first time after a lapse of 2 months. This power station is supplying 33 kilovolts of electricity . The AIR correspondent reporting from Jaffna says normalcy has returned in the outlying areas of Jaffna city.

In the disarming operation of the LTTE men, the PKF recovered 500 hand grenades, hundreds of (?Claymore) mines, mortars, and a large quantity of mortar bombs in different parts of Jaffna.

Navies Take Steps To Prevent Arms Smuggling

BK091439 Colombo Domestic Service in Tamil 1230 GMT 9 Dec 87

[Text] The Indian and Sri Lankan Navies have taken preventive steps to keep LTTE terrorists from smuggling arms into Sri Lanka on ships and to restrict their activities in the sea up to 450 km off Sri Lanka's northern and eastern coasts. Official sources told LANKA PUWATH that the Indian and Sri Lankan Navies destroyed about 50 boats carrying LTTE terrorists. An LTTE speed boat was intercepted and destroyed near the port of Kankesanthurai. Another boat carrying LTTE members was sunk near (Vadasery) last weekend.

According to reports from investigative sources, the LTTE smuggled (?a bulk of) arms and explosives into east coast areas about a month ago. These reports say that the LTTE have (?had contracts) with two ships to transport arms and explosives. These reports further say that they planned to use fishing boats to ferry the weapons from these ships to shore. In order to halt these activities, the Indian and Sri Lankan Navies have established a 450 km preventive sea zone. Their patrol boats and ships have been conducting surveillance work day and night. Now they are watching the movements of suspicious ships and boats from the Palk Strait to the eastern coast of Sri Lanka.